



# Jordan Times

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## France indicts third Iranian in Bakhtiar case

PARIS (R) — A French judge indicted a third Iranian Saturday in an investigation into the murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar, justice officials said. The 44-year-old woman, whose name was withheld for security reasons, was charged with being an accomplice in a terrorist conspiracy to kill the late Shah's last prime minister. The sources said the suspect, arrested last Wednesday, had confessed to being an employee of Iranian intelligence. She was accused of having helped the killers while they were in Paris. Mr. Bakhtiar, condemned to death by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini after the 1979 Islamic revolution, was found stabbed to death on Aug. 6 at his heavily-guarded home in the Paris suburbs. Iran denied involvement. One of the suspected killers, Ali Vakil Rad, was extradited to France from Switzerland last month and charged with murder. The two others are on the run. A former Iranian television executive and diplomat, Masoud Haddi, accused of obtaining false papers for the killers, was charged this month with being an accomplice to murder. He told French investigators that senior Iranian figures had ordered the killing, authoritative justice sources said. The affair has clouded relations between Paris and Tehran.

## Iraq says all Kuwaitis will be freed

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi officials told an Arab League team Saturday that they would like to return all Kuwaitis detained in Iraq to the emirate, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The agency also quoted Iraqi Foreign Ministry official Saad Qasem Hummadi as saying his country would allow league officials to visit detained Kuwaitis, in line with the Geneva convention. Mr. Hummadi is chief of the Arab Affairs Department of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. He was quoted as saying Iraq has no interest in keeping Kuwaitis and expressing hope that the league would contribute to returning them to their homeland. But Mr. Hummadi did not say how long it would be before Iraq released the Kuwaitis, nor did he say how many were held. The visit, which came under the terms of a league resolution that decided to ascertain the condition of Kuwaitis held in Iraq, was the first to Iraq by league officials since the Gulf war. Iraq says it already has released nearly all the Kuwaitis it held during the Gulf crisis and war, but Kuwait claims thousands of its citizens remain held by Baghdad. The league team was headed by Abdullah Aden, acting as the envoy of Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid, who has visited many of the league's 21 members but not Iraq since he assumed his post in March.

## Crown Prince meets Hogg

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday received in London British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg. Discussions during the meeting centred on the latest developments in the Middle East and efforts aimed at solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

## Sudan junta tries coup plotters

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's ruling junta has put on trial several army officers and civilians it accuses of plotting to remove it from power by force, a Khartoum newspaper said Saturday. Al Sudan Al Hadith (Modern Sudan) quoted an armed forces spokesman as saying the plotters were charged with instigating war against the government. He said the trial began last week. The spokesman did not say how many defendants were being tried. Foreign press reports put the number at 15, but there has been no official confirmation of this in Khartoum. News of a plot to overthrow the government broke last month when the junta announced the arrest of civilians and retired and active army officers.

## Kuwait University, technical schools reopen

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwait University and the emirate's vocational schools reopened Saturday after seven months of repair work in the wake of the Gulf war. Some 24,000 Kuwaiti students went back to college Saturday. Very few stateless Arabs and the children of non-Kuwaiti university teachers have been allowed to enroll this year.

## Tunisia to join Sahara force

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia will send a contingent of troops to join a United Nations peacekeeping force in Western Sahara where a ceasefire was proclaimed three weeks ago, the official news agency TAP reported. Defence Minister Habib Boulouafa said the contingent, received Friday by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, would be commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bechir Doud. The agency did not reveal how many troops would be sent to join the MINURSO mission in charge of supervising the ceasefire and organising a self-determination referendum on the future of the former Spanish colony.

## U.S. official leaves Turkey after talks

ANKARA (R) — U.S. Assistant Defence Secretary Stephen Hadley left Turkey after five days of talks on military cooperation, the U.S. embassy said Saturday. The two sides "reviewed many issues of mutual interest, including progress on plans for a second state of F-16 (fighter) production ... and on cooperation for defence industry in support of the Turkish armed forces," a statement added. Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), a U.S.-Turkish joint venture set up in 1984, is working on a \$4.2-billion project to produce 160 F-16s, or Fighting Falcons, by 1994. It has produced about 60 so far. The second stage of production envisages another 60 fighters by 2002.

## 4 killed in Kurdish rebel clashes in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Four people including a boy aged two were killed in separate incidents in Turkey involving the rebel Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), officials said Saturday. The boy was killed Friday when PKK members raided Asagi Camurcu village in Kars province bordering Iran. Anatolian news agency quoted officials from the provincial governor's office as saying. A statement from the emergency state governorate in southeastern Diyarbakir said Turkish troops had killed two PKK members in a clash Friday. A Turkish soldier was killed in the clash, which occurred when a group of rebels approached a security patrol station near Masidagi town, 1,200 kilometres southeast of Ankara.

# PNC accepts peace conference

## Algiers meeting recommends Palestinian participation

Combined agency despatches

THE PALESTINE National Council (PNC) Saturday dropped key conditions for participating in a Middle East conference, recommending that Palestinians attend to argue their case. The 468-seat council cast aside its insistence that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announce the Palestinian delegation to the conference co-sponsored by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. It also dropped its demand for a commitment before the talks that Israel would relinquish the occupied territories. "We reject all idea of conditions; it is Israel which breeds them," said Yasser Abed Rabbo, who heads the information department of the PLO and is considered a close adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "We will be waiting in the coming days for precise answers from the United States concerning the sensitive and essential questions," Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters. The delegates approved the policy statement on the peace conference, which is tentatively scheduled to open next month, by a 313-18 vote that culminated five days of passionate debate. The vote was in secret session, and it was unclear what happened to the other 120 delegates present — whether they abstained or were absent. PLO sources, speaking on con-

dition of anonymity, said Mr. Arafat and His Majesty King Hussein are likely to announce in early October that a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation will attend the peace talks. The PNC called on the Arab countries expected to attend the peace conference not to normalise relations with Israel until the statement's goals are met. The countries referred to are Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The council also elected a new executive committee as the meeting wound up. It expanded the number of seats from 15 to 18 to secure wider participation of independent technocrats, unconnected to the guerrilla factions. Mr. Arafat later told a news conference: "The ball is now in the other court... with the American administration, the co-chairman (of the conference)... with Israel, Europe and the United Nations. "We have extended our hands to peace." He said Washington should declare the Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories illegal and seek a halt to them. Israel had already confiscated 65 per cent of the West Bank and if this continued there would be no land-for-peace to negotiate at any conference, he said. Asked if the PNC statement amounted to conditional agreement to attend the talks, Mr. Arafat replied: "We have the right to put our view and re-

quests," like other parties have done. Mr. Arafat denied to reporters that two West Bank Palestinian representatives, Faisal Al Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi, had visited Algiers to talk to the PNC. Delegate sources said earlier the two had briefed PNC members on their contacts with the Americans and developments in the intifada. Both envoys have also denied the contact, which could lead to prosecution and imprisonment under Israeli law, which bars contact with the PLO. Mr. Arafat said 28 members of the Israeli Knesset (parliament) had sent a message to the PNC. He described it as important but gave no details. "Is (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir going to arrest the 28 Knesset members because they have officially contacted our PNC?" Mr. Arafat asked. Hardliner George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said the statement does not mean acceptance of the peace conference. There's a "good possibility" that Palestinians will not take part, the PFLP leader asserted. Though the statement drops the demand on announcing delegates, it reiterates that the PLO has a right to choose them. The de facto Palestinian foreign minister, Paron Kaddoumi, told delegates before the vote: (Continued on page 5)

## Masri: PNC decision realistic, will help implement international legitimacy in Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Tawfiq Masri Saturday welcomed the Palestine National Council (PNC) decision to back U.S.-Soviet efforts to hold a Middle East peace conference. "The PNC supported the initiative Saturday after five days of debate but stopped short of immediately committing Palestinians to attend the conference, planned for October. "It is evident to all of us that the PNC dealt with the events with realism and adopted resolutions that will help in implementing international legitimacy and easing the sufferings of the Palestinian people," Mr. Masri told the Arabic-language service of Jordan Television. "The resolutions will help support the peaceful march we are seeking and help lead to (Israeli) withdrawal from the

Arab territories (occupied in 1967) which is the goal of Jordan, the Palestinians and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)," he said. The PNC called for stronger Palestine-Jordanian ties but left it up to the PLO to decide whether Palestinians should form a joint delegation with Jordan to get round Israel's refusal to talk to the organisation. Mr. Masri said he expected several PLO delegations to visit Jordan soon to "reach understanding on how to deal with the conference and matters to follow." "The resolutions adopted by the PNC are based on Jordanian and Palestinian principled stands and will help the peace process which, by God's will, will lead to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories," Mr. Masri said.

He said that Jordan always favoured inter-Arab contacts to coordinate stands among Arab states. "Now that we are on the threshold of a critical stage of significance to our history and the history of the Palestinian question ... we find it necessary among the Arab parties concerned with the peace process to coordinate their stands at the highest levels," the prime minister said. "It is time for the foreign ministers of the states surrounding Israel to meet to discuss arrangement for holding the peace conference," he added. Mr. Masri said coordination was intensified during the past weeks and will intensify more in the coming period after the PNC's recommendations and after the

formation of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation to the peace parity. "I expect that Jordanian-Palestinian meetings will be held soon to coordinate our positions and reach understanding on how to deal with the (peace) conference and matters that follow," he said. The prime minister said that it was very likely that the U.S.-brokered peace conference will be held by the end of October as it was scheduled and ruled out any delay in holding it since "the Palestinians, who are a basic party to peace process, have decided to support the conference by participating. The conference will not be delayed unless something urgent arises. If that happens, the delay would be for a short period."

## Israel 'satisfied,' but awaits PNC fine print

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel signalled satisfaction Saturday over a Palestinian declaration backing a Middle East peace conference but said it still wanted to study the fine print from Algiers. "Basically it seems like a positive trend but we need full details before we can come out with an official statement," said a government source close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, speaking on condition he was not identified. "After all, every step that can lead to the convening of the conference is an important step." The Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers early on Saturday welcomed U.S.-Soviet efforts to hold Middle East peace conference but stopped short of committing Palestinians to attend. Israel has given conditional agreement to attend the talks and the United States is expected to issue invitations soon. Washington hopes to convene a conference next month. The key issue of Palestinian representation — which wrecked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's efforts to promote peace talks last year — remains unresolved. But Israeli political analysts

said the Jewish state was unlikely to pull out although it could use delaying tactics. "The Israelis are going to pose some difficulties in regard to the conference and their own participation. But I doubt whether Israel can abstain at this stage from the conference," said Gabi Schefer, professor of international affairs at Hebrew University, told Israel Radio. Israel could not risk a major crisis with its guardian ally and financial backer, the United States. "It would be very difficult from the Israeli point of view to leave the conference. Shamir is now trying to see to it that certain conditions are met," Dan Schefftan, a specialist in Arab-Israeli affairs at Hebrew University, told Reuters. Another Israeli official played down the PNC decision. "The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) is out of the political process and will remain out, even after the PNC. There is nothing new in their resolutions," said Yossi Olmert, head of Israel's government press office. (Continued on page 5)

## Baker welcomes Palestinian declaration on peace talks

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Saturday welcomed a Palestinian declaration backing a Middle East peace conference. "Any time we see support for the prospect of trying to create a peace process in the Middle East we're very glad to see that," Mr. Baker said. He is in New York for a series of meetings around the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly and spoke to reporters before a working breakfast with Mongolian Foreign Minister Tsedenpilyn Gombosuren. Mr. Baker, who has seen key Middle Eastern ministers in New York over the week, may return to the region soon to issue invitations for an Arab-Israeli peace conference. He said Palestinians, particularly those living in the Israeli-occupied territories, had the most to gain from a viable peace process and the most to lose if there was not one. But State Department officials said there were no plans yet to meet Palestinian leaders in Washington next week, as had been widely reported in the media, though such a meeting could not be ruled out.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers early Saturday welcomed U.S.-Soviet efforts to hold a Middle East peace conference but stopped short of committing Palestinians to attend. The key issue of Palestinian representation — which wrecked Mr. Baker's efforts to promote peace talks last year — remains unresolved. The U.S. administration said Friday that the reported presence of two Palestinian leaders at the PNC conference after meeting U.S. officials did not mean Washington was in contact with the PLO. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States had no contact, direct or through intermediaries, with the PLO. The two leaders, Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi, were said to have appeared at the PNC in Algiers to urge delegates to authorise Palestinians to attend the peace conference. Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi, who represent Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, have met repeatedly with Mr. Baker over the past seven months as he tried to arrange the Mideast peace conference.

## Baghdad stand-off ends; U.N. team, Iraqis work on inventory

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq bowed to relentless U.S. and U.N. pressure Saturday, allowing a 44-member inspection team probing its nuclear secrets to leave a Baghdad car park after a four-day confrontation. Members of the U.N. team, unshaven and still in the same clothes they had worn since the standoff began early Tuesday, returned to their hotel at around dawn saying they had yielded nothing. Iraqi officials, who had demanded the inspectors hand over records taken and videotapes made during a surprise search of an atomic energy commission office, finally agreed to their release provided a full inventory was made. "Essentially, we've won full agreement to have the documents and the video cameras," said team leader David Kay. "They remain in our possession." Team members met Saturday with Iraqi officials to catalogue secret documents detailing Iraq's nuclear weapons programme. After completing that job and

additional inspections, U.N. officials say, the inspectors will leave Iraq — with the documents. "They're going to just keep going and going and going until it's all done," said Jeremy Mansfield of the inspection team. Mr. Mansfield, a Canadian, spoke to the Associated Press in a telephone interview from the Hotel Palestine in Baghdad, where the U.N.-Iraqi efforts were under way. He estimated it would take nearly 24 hours. At U.N. headquarters, the head of the U.N. Special Commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction said Iraq may still be trying to continue its research on nuclear weapons. "We know that there is still a large number of people employed" in Iraq's nuclear programme, Rolf Ekens said Friday. U.N. officials say the documents uncovered contain records of an extensive clandestine project to build nuclear weapons. Saturday's inventory at the Baghdad hotel — across the street from the parking lot where

the inspectors had been detained — was stipulated in the agreement that ended the standoff early Saturday. "We are just going through the mechanics of the agreement," Mr. Mansfield said. The agreement eased tensions between Iraq and the U.S.-led allies that had been raised to their highest level since the Gulf war. To pressure Iraq to honour provisions in the Gulf war ceasefire agreement, President George Bush dispatched two patriot missile battalions to Saudi Arabia and reportedly planned to send more. The showdown began after the Iraqis demanded the inspectors turn over documents they had seized that detailed Iraq's secret nuclear programme. The inspectors refused. Iraqi troops then surrounded the U.N. inspectors, who included 27 Americans, forcing the team to camp out in a bus and six vehicles outside the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission.

## Israel rejects Iranian demand

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel criticised Iran Saturday for saying the release of more Western hostages depended on the Jewish state freeing more Arab prisoners. Israeli defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh said further gestures by Israel hinged on it receiving news about missing Israeli servicemen. "We expressed our willingness to make further gestures but we expect the Iranians will meet their commitment to give U.N. Secretary-General (Javier) Perez de Celler information," he said. He was reacting to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's remarks at a news conference in the United Nations at which he said Israel should free more Arab detainees. "One thing that is important is the release of the Lebanese who have been abducted from the southern part of Lebanon by Israel... for this comprehensive process of getting the release of all hostages," Mr. Velayati said Friday. It was not clear whether Mr. Velayati's remarks covered American hostage Joseph Cicciolo. A Muslim fundamentalist source said Thursday that he would be freed on or before Sunday and that Israel would, in

## Gorbachev hails Bush call for arms cut, but 'questions remain'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev said Saturday that U.S. President George Bush's sweeping proposal to reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal "promises a serious movement toward a nuclear-free world." Mr. Gorbachev, speaking on national television, had no concrete counterproposal but called Mr. Bush's plan "very positive." He said many questions had to be answered before the Soviet Union could respond. "It is still premature to assess the whole scope of these proposals, especially as regards concrete issues," he said. "It would be too hasty on our part and unconvincing for everyone. Nonetheless, from what we know, we can say it is a serious proposal although it raises many questions in my mind." The sweeping plans announced Friday night by President Bush will dramatically reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal. A senior administration official said the moves were being made unilaterally with the expectation that the Soviet Union will reciprocate. If not, the official said, the steps "could and would be reversed." According to the plan, the United States will: — Bring home and destroy all of its nuclear artillery shells and all nuclear warheads for its ground-based short-range missiles. — Remove all tactical nuclear weapons, including nuclear cruise missiles, from surface ships and attack submarines, and also remove nuclear weapons associated

## U.S. begins bold reductions in nuclear, alert status

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Saturday began major cuts in its nuclear forces worldwide. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told reporters at the Pentagon he had ordered U.S. strategic nuclear bombers off war alert by the end of the day and that withdrawal or destruction of 2,600 atomic artillery shells, short-range missiles and bombs would begin shortly. "This morning I have signed the 'execute' order taking our strategic bomber force and our Minuteman-2 missile force off alert status, thereby implementing the first part of the president's decision," Mr. Cheney told a news conference. He said the "standing down" of 40 B-1B and B-52 bombers in the United States to routine status after 24 years of alert and slashing America's short-range nuclear arsenal could be halted or reversed in an emergency.

with land-based naval aircraft. Many of these weapons will be destroyed but some will be stored. — Remove all U.S. strategic bombers from day-to-day alert status and return their weapons to storage. — Remove from alert all U.S. intercontinental ballistic weapons scheduled to be deactivated under the recently negotiated Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). Once START is ratified, the United States will accelerate their elimination. — Scrap plans to put the 10-warhead MX missile on rail cars and to develop a mobile launcher for the single-warhead "Midgetman" missile. — Cancel the nuclear short-range attack missile. — Create a new U.S. strategic command designed to improve command and control of all U.S. strategic and nuclear forces. — Propose the United States and the Soviet Union seek early agreement to eliminate all intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) with multiple warheads from their inventories. — Propose discussions with the Soviet Union to explore cooperation on nuclear command and control, warhead security, and safe and environmentally responsible storage, transportation, dismantling and destruction. Mr. Gorbachev said Saturday: "What I have to say is that these proposals are too massive for us to be able to give an answer to them at the moment." He noted that the U.S. proposals was a unilateral one. Mr. Bush's urged a "balanced response." Mr. Gorbachev repeated a longstanding Soviet proposal that (Continued on page 5)

## Saudis demand U.N. mandate for new attack against Iraq

BAHRAIN (AP) — Saudi Arabian leaders, wary of Arab-wide consequences of a military attack on Iraq, have insisted on a U.N. mandate for action the United States might take against Iraq, Arab diplomatic sources said Saturday. They said King Fahd dismissed as unacceptable any action against Iraq that does not have world approval similar to that given to Operation Desert Storm, which ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in February. The sources, who insisted on anonymity, were explaining the apparent change of heart about a fresh U.S. military strike against Iraq in response to its obstruction of U.N. inspection of nuclear and chemical weapons sites. "King Fahd would not allow any fresh military action against Iraq without a clear resolution from the U.N. Security Council and sufficient Arab and Islamic backing," said one Riyadh-based

Arab diplomat. He conceded that President George Bush would not have initially ordered the dispatch of warplanes without prior consultation with the Saudi monarch. "Bush is a seasoned diplomat and understands the sensitivities of the region," said the diplomat. But as the tension was mounting, Saudi officials were already privately pointing to the massive array of hundreds of U.S. air force warplanes and helicopter gunships still in the area, and contending these would be sufficient for any military strike. The New York Times reported late last week that Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan asked Washington to turn around the warplanes that were on their way to the Kingdom. This could not be verified immediately. But all sources confirmed that the U.S. planes did not go to Saudi Arabia. Mr. Bush ordered the war-

planes on standby as he declared at the U.N. General assembly that "we will not compromise" with Iraq over its nuclear, chemical and biological programmes and its arsenal of Scud missiles. But the American president meanwhile ordered the redeployment of two battalions of 1,400 U.S. troops to the Kingdom to assemble 96 Patriot missiles around major Saudi cities as a defensive curtain against the Iraqi Soviet-built Scuds. An unspecified number of Patriots were already in the Kingdom, perhaps never shipped home after the Gulf war, said sources who estimated that each battalion would be operating three batteries, and each battery would have four launchers of four missiles. Jane's Defence Weekly said the Saudis want to have 26 batteries of Patriots.



## Iraq calls for probe into American burying of its troops

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq's foreign minister called Friday for an international investigation and condemnation of the use of United States tanks to bury Iraqi troops alive in their trenches during the Gulf war.

"The battlefield... witnessed the worst of American ignominy and cowardice when the Americans chose to use tank ploughs to bury thousands of Iraqi soldiers alive in their trenches instead of having to fight them on the battlefield," Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer said in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

He said Pentagon sources admitted the "actual perpetration of this abject operation" when the story was published in the American press earlier this month.

"We call upon the international community through this gathering and through the other regional and international organisations to condemn this criminal act, investigate it and hold its perpetrators fully responsible," he said.

"We also call upon the International Committee of the Red Cross to conduct an investigation of the matter and take the measures necessary for the bodies of our martyrs to be brought home."

Near the start of his speech, the minister expressed regret that U.S. President George Bush, in a speech to the assembly on Monday, resorted to "untoward attacks against the president of my country in a manner incompatible with diplomatic practice."

"If we were to call the American president names, as he allowed himself to do to my president, we would wonder

what to call one who killed women, children and the elderly with his planes and missiles, who bombed the Amirich shelter (in Baghdad) killing more women and children, what we could call one who gave the orders to bury Iraqi soldiers alive, one whose forces targeted baby-food factories, and lastly one who insists on depriving a population of 18 million from food and medicine and all other means of livelihood."

Referring to U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait last year, Mr. Khudayer said the continuation of the "inhuman embargo against Iraq and its people in spite of Iraqi acceptance of all Security Council resolutions" was a flagrant exploitation of their suffering for purely political aims.

He said no council resolutions authorised the United States and its allies to destroy Iraq.

"No one in his right mind can accept that destruction of all Iraqi civilian installations was their only way to force the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait."

The minister departed from his prepared speech to criticise the manner in which U.N. inspectors charged with finding and destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction conducted themselves.

He said the American leader of a U.N. team, David Kay, had attempted to seize the personnel files of atomic energy experts.

Repeating previous Iraqi assertions, he said these documents that were not covered by Security Council resolutions demanding the U.N. dismantle Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

He said this was a risk to the life of those people because the files would inevitably reach fore-



Ahmad Hussein Al Khudayer

ign intelligence agencies, such as Israel's Mossad, which he accused of having already assassinated Iraqi nuclear experts.

He personally attacked Mr. Kay as the same person who previously "made the same noise against Iraq."

"His timing, the minister said, was to make sure the economic embargo against Iraq stayed in place and showed the 'tendentious nature of this group.'"

The Iraqi minister said the question of Palestine was the most flagrant example of what he called the double standard adopted by the countries of the West, led by the United States.

"While many countries call for the implementation of international legitimacy and seek to hide their illegitimate acts against Iraq behind that slogan, some of them still ignore the rights of the Palestinian people," he said.

He said the first thing to be implemented was an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and a halt to the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and other countries.

"We stress that Iraq's principled stand is to support the Palestinian people led by the Palestine Liberation Organisation in its struggle to regain all its firm rights," Mr. Khudayer said.

## Limited Iraqi oil export through Turkey to begin soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turkey's insistence on a higher rate for transit charges of Iraqi oil through its territory is slowing down the beginning of Iraqi oil exports worth \$1.6 billion endorsed by the United Nations Security Council earlier this month, according to highly-informed sources who add that they remained hopeful that the issue would be resolved soon.

"The Turkish position is understandable but not logical," said the source, an official of a United Nations special panel, set up to handle U.N.-imposed procedures related to the restricted Iraqi oil exports through pipelines in Turkish territory to the Mediterranean.

The prevailing thought (in the U.N.) is that the amount demanded by Turkey is too high," the source said, confirming that Ankara was asking for roughly \$1 per barrel compared with 77 cents prior to the Gulf crisis.

According to the source, who insisted on anonymity, Turkey, which argues that it lost up to \$380 million in oil transit charges as a result of the closure of the pipeline since August 1990, has proposed a total of \$264 million as its fees for allowing the limited Iraqi oil exports.

"Contacts are continuing, and we hope that an agreement will be reached soon," the source added.

The proceeds from the oil sales will be channelled to a

special fund, which will use part of the amount to meet the food and medicine needs of Iraq and part to pay costs incurred by the U.N. to monitor Iraq's compliance with Gulf ceasefire terms and destroying Iraq's mass destruction weapons.

The source agreed with independent estimates that the net amount that would reach Iraq in the form of food and medicine could be less than \$700 million, "and it could still go down if the Turkish demand is met in full."

Iraq, despite its rejection of U.N. controls, is fully geared up to start limited oil exports after a 13-month hiatus brought about by the international trade embargo imposed against it following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Oil experts believe that the bulk of the exports will find its way to Europe. They have calculated that Iraq needs to export 500,000 barrels a day — equivalent to one super-tanker a week for six months to reach the \$1.6 billion mark.

According to Iraqi sources, oil facilities in Iraq have been repaired to the extent that the country can export up to 1.8 million barrels per day initially and raising the volume to the full capacity of 1.5 million barrels a day of the Turkish pipeline. This might bring down the time element to less than three months to reach the \$1.6 billion figure.

The 960-kilometre twin pipeline from the northern oil fields of Iraq to Turkey's Mediterranean terminals has not been damaged in the allied bombing during the war. It is believed that the pipeline was spared after a specific request was made by Turkey to the allied coalition which fought the Gulf war against Iraq.

Over eight million barrels of oil still in the pipelines through Turkey in addition to 1.58 million barrels in 12 tanks at the Turkish terminal of Yumurtalik, according to Iraqi Oil Ministry sources.

Close to another 30 million barrels remain in two other pipelines, running through Saudi territory to the Red Sea port of Yanbu, but this stock will have to wait better political relations between Baghdad and Riyadh, the sources said. In any event, these facilities have sustained considerable damage, they added.

Traders who have dealt with Iraq prior to the Gulf crisis say that Italy, France, Turkey, Spain and Greece would be the main buyers of Iraqi oil. Norway said this week that it was temporarily lifting the ban on Iraqi oil.

Similar announcements are expected from other countries soon.

American oil companies are not expected to buy Iraqi crude for several reasons, the first and foremost being political and then the bureaucratic procedures under which buyers settle accounts through an escrow account controlled by the United Nations.

Under the system proposed by the U.N., 30 per cent of the proceeds will be set aside as war reparations to be paid by Iraq under Security Council resolutions setting Gulf war ceasefire terms. In addition, the cost of U.N. supervision of the destruction of Iraq's mass destruction weapons will also be paid for from the revenues.

Outstanding claims by any government or any other party against Iraq will not be entertained under the escrow account.

U.N. conditions attached to the sale include:

— All contracts for Iraqi oil exports have to be approved by the Security Council's Sanctions Committee. Purchasers should notify the committee and follow the procedures set up by the committee;

— Purchasers will open a letter of credit favouring a U.N. escrow account for each transaction;

— The exports will be limited to the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline;

— U.N.-appointed inspectors will verify that the price is realistic in terms of prevailing market conditions;

— The oil exports will be immune from claims from any quarters against Iraq;

— The procedures for essential food and medicine supplies for Iraq include:

— The Iraqi government will provide lists of requirements and these lists are subject to approval by the Sanctions Committee.

The committee will in turn also inform the U.N. secretary-general of each approved Iraqi purchase contract and the secretary-general will authorise payment from the escrow account.

United Nations agents will monitor every phase of the transaction and can physically inspect the goods until the time of entry to Iraq.

— Distribution of goods will be arranged between the U.N., represented by special envoy Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and the Iraqi government but the U.N. will have the final say in determining which areas and which sectors will have priority in receiving supplies.

Although Iraq has vehemently rejected the U.N. supervision and sought a free-market system in paying war reparations to Kuwait and other parties, Baghdad has no choice but to accept the limited deal since internal difficulties are mounting.

A recommendation by the U.N. secretary-general that the permitted amount of Iraqi oil sales be raised to \$2.4 billion from \$1.6 billion was rejected by the Security Council.

According to the communications and transport minister of Iraq, Abdul Sattar Al Mijni, even an amount of \$2.6 billion will be nowhere near Iraq's needs of food and medicine. However, he has pledged that all oil proceeds will be used on Iraqi people.

## Iran to hold on to Iraqi planes

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iran is willing to return several Kuwaiti commercial jetliners seized by Iraq during its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, but will keep more than 130 Iraqi military planes for the time being, a top Iranian official said Friday.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a news conference that the fate of the Iraqi air force planes, mostly fighters and low-level bombers, "depends on the United Nations," but declined to be more specific.

The United Nations is charged with negotiating an end to the eight-year Iran-Iraq war and the planes could figure in a final settlement of war damages. Also, during the Gulf crisis, the United Nations ordered a freeze on all Iraqi assets worldwide.

Facing mounting losses at the hands of U.S. and allied warplanes during the Gulf war, Iraqi pilots flew about 140 planes to neighbouring Iran.

Although it was not clear whether the pilots were acting

under order to save Iraq's fast-dwindling air force or defecting on their own, several of the planes were shot down by the allies en route and others crashed landed in Iran.

Iran later announced that Iraqi planes landing at its bases would be impounded until the end of hostilities.

U.S. military officials said that about 140 Iraqi aircraft fled to Iran, including most of Iraq's top-line, Soviet-built MiG-29s as well as a variety of other combat and support planes. Some reportedly were retained with Iranian air force markings.

"They are there and it depends on the decisions of the U.N., the destiny of these aircraft," Mr. Velayati said in response to a question.

He said "some civilian planes" belonging to Kuwait and seized by the Iraqis at Kuwait's international airport would be returned to that country. "We have asked a delegation to come and start negotiations to get these planes,"

he said.

While Mr. Velayati did not offer precise figures, an Iraqi journalist said there were six Kuwaiti Airbus jetliners in Iranian hands.

'Israel must free more Arabs'

Mr. Velayati also said that Israel must release more Arab prisoners to gain freedom for the remaining Western hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Velayati told the news conference that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who mediated the release of three hostages from Lebanon since August, remained very optimistic about the prospects for eight other foreigners still being held captive.

"One thing that is important is the release of the Lebanese who have been abducted from the southern part of Lebanon by Israel... for this comprehensive process of getting the release of all hostages," Mr. Velayati said.

## Iran, Gulf states promise peaceful settling of disputes

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iran and its Gulf Arab neighbours have defined their relationship in the post-Gulf war era, promising to settle disputes peacefully and recognise each other's frontiers.

United in their opposition to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the foreign ministers of Iran and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) issued a statement Friday saying they would meet again early in 1992.

Members of the GCC are Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Iran has been eager to ally traditional mistrust with the Gulf countries and assume a more prominent regional role after the Gulf war.

Following is the communiqué issued by the foreign ministers of the GCC and Iran following meeting at the United Nations Friday.

The foreign ministers of the GCC and the Islamic Republic of Iran held their second annual meeting in New York on Sept. 27, 1991.

The ministers reviewed issues

of mutual interest in a spirit of Islamic brotherhood and cordiality. They expressed satisfaction at the development of their relations and reiterated their determination to continue strengthening their relations and cooperation in various fields, based on the principles of the charters of the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and international law applicable to the development of cordial relations among their nations, and in particular respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, inviolability of internationally recognised boundaries, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-resort to force or the threat of use of force in their relations, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, and promotion of dialogue and mutual understanding.

The ministers reviewed the current level of relations between the GCC countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran and agreed to meet in the region at the ministerial level in the first quarter of 1992 with a view to establishing a framework for the strengthening of their relations.

## Algerian opposition leader arrested

ALGIERS (R) — Security forces have arrested the interim leader of Algeria's main opposition party, the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), after storming its Algiers headquarters, the party said.

Sheikh Abdul Kader Hachani was arrested several hours after Friday prayers by six armed police burst into the offices of the front's provisional executive bureau, a party statement added.

Sheikh Hachani, 35, was deputising for FIS leader Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj who were detained in June on charges of conspiracy against the state after fundamentalist street violence in which officials said 55 persons died.

Troops and riot police surrounded the Bab Al Oued mosque, a major FIS rallying point in an Algiers suburb, to prevent fundamentalists entering the building Friday, witnesses said.

Sheikh Hachani, denounced the "besieging of the mosques" but called on supporters to disperse quietly and avoid forming groups.

President Chadli Benjedid imposed a state of siege on June 5, sacked the government and postponed multi-party elections planned for June after a series of strikes by the FIS triggered street violence.

The state of siege, declared for four months, will end on Sunday, six days before it was due to expire.

The show of force around the mosque Friday appeared to be a signal to the FIS that the authorities would not tolerate disturbances two days before a state of siege is to be lifted.

The government wants to hold multi-party elections before the end of the year.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### EC seeks Cyprus wording before talks

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers will try Monday to raise their concern about Cyprus in a way which will not spoil their first formal political talks with Turkey for five years, EC sources said Friday. The last time the EC-Turkey Association Council attempted to meet in 1988, Turkey boycotted the talks on learning that Cyprus would be mentioned, at Greece's insistence, in the EC's opening statement. Turkey alone recognises a self-proclaimed Turkish-Cypriot state protected by Turkish troops in the northern third of the island. The EC's Dutch presidency initiated Monday's association council meeting as a positive gesture towards Ankara, which has drawn closer to the West, especially in supporting the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq in the Gulf war. But Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis said in Athens Thursday that there could be no rapprochement between the EC and Turkey until the Cyprus dispute was resolved, adding that Greece expected its EC partners to support this attitude. "The Greeks are looking to provoke a dramatic outcome," one EC source said after EC national government officials told this week to come up with a wording on Cyprus which would satisfy Athens without sparking a Turkish walkout. EC diplomats said ministers would make a last attempt on Monday to find a common position, a few hours before they were due to meet and then dine with a Turkish delegation led by Foreign Minister Sefa Giray.

### Nigeria verifying identities of deportees

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian security agents are still questioning some of the 560 people deported from Libya to verify their claims of being Nigerians. Vice-President Augustus Alkhoutu said Friday. "There are a lot of questions the security agents want to find answers to," Mr. Alkhoutu told reporters. "If you say you are a Nigerian, we want to know about your travel documents. Did they originate from here or our embassy in Tripoli?" Mr. Alkhoutu said at his weekly news briefing. The deportees, brought to Nigeria aboard Libyan planes since late August, have been detained at a camp for Haj pilgrims, guarded by armed troops, near Lagos airport. The New Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said only 120 remained at the camp. The rest had left voluntarily, it added. It quoted some of the remaining deportees as saying they had been subjected to rigorous interrogation. They complained that life in the mosquito-infested camp was hard. The state-owned New Nigerian daily quoted security sources as saying that 90 per cent of the deportees who arrived on Sept. 10 and false passports.

### Floods kill one in northern Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Floods in Iran's northern Gilan province killed one person and severely damaged several villages, the national Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Saturday. The agency, received in Cyprus, said the floods followed heavy rain. Relief agencies had rushed food, clothes, tents and blankets to the province bordering the Caspian Sea.

## Extracts from Palestinian resolution on peace conference

ALGIERS (R) — Following is a Reuters translation of extracts from the Middle East peace conference resolution passed Saturday by the Palestine National Council (PNC). In harmony with the Palestinian peace initiative in 1988 and international and Arab legality the PLO has welcomed the current peace efforts and dealt with them positively including the call announced by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev to convene the peace conference on resolving the conflict in the Middle East, sees that the success of the efforts to convene the peace conference requires continuing work with the other parties to achieve the following principles:

1. The peace conference based on international legitimacy and its resolutions — including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and abiding by their implementation — which ensure the full Israeli withdrawal from Arab and Palestinian occupied lands including occupied Jerusalem, and ensure the principle of land for peace and the national and political rights of the Palestinian people.

2. Stressing the consideration of Jerusalem as an indivisible part of the Palestinian occupied land, and in line with U.N. and Security Council resolutions that which applies to all occupied lands applies to Jerusalem.

3. A halt to the building of settlements on occupied land, including sacred Jerusalem, as an indispensable necessity to start the peace process and the necessity to provide international guarantees to ensure that.

4. The right of the PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to form the Palestinian delegation from inside

and outside the homeland, including Jerusalem. The establishing of a formula for PLO participation and an equal footing and with the PLO as the point of reference.

5. Coordinating the Arab stances to ensure a comprehensive peace and eliminate separate solutions in line with Arab summits' resolutions.

6. Ensuring the linkage between the stages of the solution to arrive at a final and comprehensive solution according to international legality.

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## UNRWA commission tours camps, shocked by crowded conditions

By Ella Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the advisory commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Saturday toured refugee camps in and around Amman and said later that they were shocked at the condition of schools congested with great numbers of students including thousands who returned from Kuwait.

UNRWA schools are located inside the camps which were visited by the commission members, who also toured the health centres and rehabilitation units and were briefed on the agency's services, according to Japan's representative in the commission, Tetsuya Endo.

"We believe that the United Nations ought to give more attention to the educational and health services carried out by the agency in Jordan and other fields of operation in the area," said Mr. Endo in an interview with the Jordan Times shortly after conducting the tour in the camps.

UNRWA was earlier reported to have accepted nearly 6,000 returnee children and was struggling to offer students and needy refugees educational and health services.

"We visited the centres for the rehabilitation of disabled and were impressed by UNRWA workers and local residents trying to offer help to the handicapped," Mr. Endo said.

But, he added, the agency needs assistance to offer better services in this respect. "We are going to the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip via the King Hussein Bridge tomorrow in order to conduct a similar tour of the camps there," Mr. Endo said. "Our observations and impressions will be discussed in detail at a meeting in Vienna next week with the commissioner general, Mr. Iler Turkmen, who plans to submit a detailed report on the subject and UNRWA's financial situation to the U.N. General Assembly soon."

Apart from Japan, the advisory commission groups representatives of Belgium, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. They held a meeting in Amman last week to discuss UNRWA-related affairs.

At its first ever meeting outside Vienna, the commission heard Jordan's delegate submitting a number of requests to the agency for promoting services to the refugees.

Adel Irshaid, who is director of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, spoke on behalf of the Arab countries hosting refugees and demanded among other things that UNRWA headquarters be moved to Beirut from Vienna to be closer to the fields of operations for the refugees and to cut down on expenses.



Prime Minister Taher Masri addresses meeting in which he called for provincial governors to be entrusted with more authority so as to deal with problems affecting their areas (Petra photo).

## Prime minister urges provincial governors to address problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Decentralisation and entrusting further authority in provincial governors to enable them to deal with pressing issues in their own regions were discussed in detail by Prime Minister Taher Masri at a meeting with provincial governors in the Kingdom.

The meeting, attended by Minister of Interior Jawdat Al Shoul and other officials, focused on proper measures by which the provincial governors can help the government find solutions to local problems, according to Mr. Shoul.

Speaking after the meeting

with the prime minister, Mr. Shoul said that the meeting was within the framework of the Masri government's policy of enhancing the concept of democracy and in line with the directives given to the government by His Majesty King Hussein.

The prime minister was keen to inform the governors of the new economic, political and social developments on the local and regional levels and the efforts being exerted by the government to deal with them, the interior minister said.

The prime minister stressed the

need for provincial governors to implement programmes designed to promote services in their respective regions in accordance with a set of priorities.

Among other topics discussed at the meeting was the question of conducting a census of the number of stock breeders in various provinces, he said.

Mr. Shoul added that the prime minister instructed the governors to have a very careful and accurate census with a view to helping decision-makers and concerned authorities to conduct fair distribution of fodder and animal feed.

## Two leftist deputies call on Masri to resign

Jordan has 'no interest' in current peace process, they say

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two leftist deputies at the Lower House of Parliament Saturday called on Prime Minister Taher Masri to resign "because Jordan has no interest in joining the peace process."

Deputies Fakhri Kavar and Mansour Murad, both from the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), also urged fellow ministers to resign "because the government is going ahead towards a settlement of surrender."

In a statement read out at a press conference, Mr. Kavar charged that Mr. Masri had told JANDA, which has five ministers in the government, that there was no settlement for the Palestine question and that the U.S. and President George Bush "were only manoeuvring."

There has been news reports

that Mr. Masri was about to reshuffle his cabinet and that certain JANDA ministers will resign. On Friday, Mr. Masri told the French news agency (AFP) that the reshuffle is "routine and limited."

Mr. Kavar said he and his colleagues — Mr. Murad and deputy Hosni Shuyab, who could not attend the press conference because he was travelling — were not talking on behalf of JANDA.

"We (JANDA) held meetings but did not reach a decision" on whether to remain in the government, Mr. Kavar said. He said that there were different points of view at JANDA.

He added that he understood that Jordan was under tremendous pressure to attend the conference but said he saw no reason why Jordan should attend. "The Arab position is weak, the Arabs are defeated" and any settlement will be in the interests of Israel and the

U.S., the leader of the new world order, he said.

Asked what alternative he is offering if Jordan did not attend, Mr. Kavar said "we have no alternative."

Mr. Murad added: "Going to the peace conference will not save us of all sorts of pressures. What will save us is to learn the lessons of the past, especially the last one, the U.S. insistence on destroying Iraq."

"We should build a new and modern Jordan in which the people take their role in facing the challenges," he said.

In their statement to the press, the deputies stressed that only more democracy and people participation will ensure a stronger Jordan.

"We must put an end to bureaucracy, corruption and bribery in the government administrative body. People's freedoms must be guaranteed — and people's potentials must be released," the statement said.

## Local ADC chapter continues efforts to rally opposition to Israeli loan guarantees

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the occasion of Child Day, Oct. 7, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) is organising a march with an estimated 250 children from the refugee camps taking part.

The children will be protesting the \$10 billion loan guarantees designed for the building of illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. "It is an opposition by children, who do not have any chance of growing up normally, directed to the U.S. government," said Dr. Aida Dabbas, director of the ADC chapter in Jordan.

Although Child Day was picked as a suitable day for the march, the rally will take place on Oct. 13.

So far, it is not known whether the marchers will head for the U.S. embassy or the United Nations headquarters.

The ADC, in protest of the illegal funding to Israel by the United States, in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

schools, will also be gathering a group of children to paint drawings on the theme "Palestinian Child and Settlements."

This will allow the children to express their feelings about Israeli settlements and what impact it has to their life," Dr. Dabbas told the Jordan Times.

After being exhibited in Jordan, the drawings will be sent to the ADC chapters in the United States where they will be exhibited and then sent as a gift to U.S. President George Bush.

The ADC chapter in Jordan has been campaigning vehemently against the loan guarantees through letter writing to President Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and United Nations Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

"We have been urging Jordanians to write as well," Dr. Dabbas said. "We have had success. Once, a gentleman came into the ADC office here and opened his briefcase. In it were 2,000 letters he had collected from Jordanian citizens."

In the United States, the ADC chapter's stand is that it opposes the \$10 billion loan guarantee proposal in its entirety and be-

lieves the programme would result in negative consequences at the national, regional and international levels. The U.S. chapters are lobbying and campaigning congressmen directly as well as through newspapers.

Meanwhile, in Jordan, "we are finding that people want to express their opinions," Dr. Dabbas said. "It is important that they take a stand and I think the U.S. government is somewhat surprised that the public is speaking out."

Dr. Dabbas said that the ADC is trying to encourage Jordanians to write constantly and protest the loan guarantees. "We are sending faxes to companies telling them that we will help them by sending the letters for them," she said.

It is important that many people and institutions are reached and that they speak out against settlement building in the occupied Arab territories, she said. "We believe it is internationally illegal and going against all the U.N. resolutions. We believe the U.S. should not be a party to illegal activities," Dr. Dabbas said.

## Israel steps up land confiscations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities have seized 8.78 per cent of land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the period from 1988 until June 1991, according to a report issued by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs.

The report said that a total of 418,642 dunams, or 7.29 per cent of land were confiscated during the period from January 1990 and June 1991, excluding land seized in the Jerusalem area.

The report quoted Al Haq Establishment, a legal body concerned with human rights, as saying that the Israeli occupation authorities confiscated 1,931 dunams last August, including 400 dunams from the Qalqiliya area.

On Israeli settlement policy, the report said Israel plans to construct thousands of apartments to accommodate half a million new settlers during the

next five years. It noted that the number of Jewish settlers has exceeded 230,000, including 100,000 living in settlements built on the West Bank. The report said the number of settlers in the Jerusalem area is about 125,000.

The report disclosed Israeli plans to build 12 new settlements in the occupied West Bank. In addition to the establishment of a Jewish quarter in the Sheikh Jarrah area in Jerusalem.



Journalism Press Association President Hashem Khreisat addresses journalists at conference on role of press during war (Petra photo).

## Symposium highlights dangers and responsibilities of press during war

By Maha Adad  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA), in cooperation with the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ), Saturday started an international symposium, entitled "Media Coverage at Times of War: Objectivity and the Role of Journalists" at which the subject of journalists' safety while covering conflict was presented and discussed.

The symposium, the first of its kind in Jordan, taking place at the Plaza Hotel, comes in the first year after the IOJ adopted a constitution that tries to give proper dimension to the professional aspect of journalism; Hashem Khreisat, the president of JPA said.

"This seminar is held in the first year after IOJ progressed beyond a historic landmark by adopting a more developed constitution suited to its march to broader horizons in the service of journalism and journalists so that now information can be treated in a spirit of seriousness and responsibility meeting with the aspirations of the journalists of the world," said Mr. Khreisat, adding that journalists have often paid with their lives and are exposed to harassment, imprisonment, detention and censorship when covering wars and crises.

The director general of IOJ, Gerard Gatnot, said that IOJ has a great responsibility for the many journalists and must, therefore, ensure their safety and their freedom of expression at all times.

"There are 260,000 journalists in 106 organisations in 92 countries that stretch over five continents and for whom we have a great responsibility," Mr. Gatnot said.

"And this symposium directs attention to journalists who cover conflicts and their role in attaining complete information during such times."

He added that IOJ's major goals include stopping war propaganda, calling for the prevention of war, and promoting peace for all peoples which are in tune with the United Nations' section against war propaganda.

Minister of Information Khaled Al-Karak, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, said that the interaction during this symposium between journalists from many outstanding organisations will increase journalists' knowledge as they share their experiences in covering war and as they move forward in achieving more freedom of expression so that journalists become "witnesses for what goes on around them and form a wall against injustices so that they present to people an undistorted picture of what is happening and aid people in knowing the truth when information is altered or censored. It is at such times that journalists' freedom is not restricted," Dr. Al Karaki said.

The symposium, which will last three days, includes working papers presented by journalists discussing their experiences while covering wars and other related subjects.

## Discoverer of Petra to be honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of photographs of the Swiss explorer Johann L. Burckhardt will be opened at the Nabatean city of Petra Monday at a ceremony to be attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor and Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti as well as other officials and dignitaries.

At the ceremony, the Queen will present a special Royal Medal to a descendant of Mr. Burckhardt in recognition of his great service to the Kingdom by discovering the rose red city in 1812. The medal will be presented to Jacob Burckhardt who is travelling to Jordan from Switzerland for the ceremony.

The Swiss explorer, who lived between 1784 and 1817, was the first European in modern times to visit the ancient city of Petra and to arrive at the great Egyptian Temple at Abu Simbel.

Mr. Burckhardt, who was educated in England, toured parts of Greater Syria to learn Arabic and to accustom himself to Muslim life. In 1812, en route from Syria to Cairo, he discovered the important site of Petra.

Mr. Burckhardt, who took the name of Sheikh Ibrahim and often wore Muslim dress, left his large collection of Arabic manuscripts to Cambridge University.

The ceremony at Petra will include riding through the Siq on horses and chariots towards the Khazneh where the Queen will hand over the decoration



Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. Rediscovered Petra in 1812.

bestowed by His Majesty King Hussein to Jacob Burckhardt. Among those to be attending the ceremony will be Swiss ambassador to Jordan Bernar-

dino Sciollini and Luc Boissonnas, director of the Arts Council of Switzerland. The exhibition will remain open until Oct. 9.

## Libyan health delegation ends four-day visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Libyan delegation led by Health Minister Zeidan Bader Zeidan left Amman for home at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan during which the two countries reached agreement on promoting bilateral cooperation in medical and health fields.

Dr. Zeidan and his Jordanian counterpart, Mamdouh Al Abbadi, signed the minutes of the deliberations which provide closer cooperation among the private and the public health sectors of both countries.

A statement, summing up the outcome of the meetings, said that the two sides agreed on increasing cooperation between the medical institutions in Libya and Jordan in the field of maintaining medical equipment, the exchange of expertise in medical matters and medicine production and distribution. The two sides also agreed that the director of the Medicine Control Laboratory in Libya visit Jordan at the head of a team to coordinate matters in this respect.

The statement said that Libya has agreed to give Jordanian pharmaceutical products preferential treatment in trade and to launch cooperation with Jordan

in the field of producing and marketing vaccines and to set up joint factories for the production of medical equipment utilising plastic products supplied by the Libyan side.

Jordan, according to the statement, will help Libya set up a research centre in Tripoli similar to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in Amman.

Also, according to the statement, the two sides emphasised the importance of cooperation in health education and exchange visits by experts from both countries.

The two sides agreed on a time table for such visits and on streamlining laws and regulations concerning teaching of medicine at institutions in the two countries.

The statement noted that the Libyan government will allow Jordanian doctors and specialists to offer them equal treatment with their Libyan colleagues.

Dr. Abbadi and Dr. Zeidan agreed to convene a joint Jordanian-Libyan health committee in Amman before the end of 1991 and another meeting in Tripoli six months later.

Dr. Abbadi, who saw off the Libyan delegation, told the Jordan

News Agency, Petra, that the talks in Amman aimed at achieving integration between the two countries in health-related fields. He said Jordan is to send doctors and specialists to work in Libyan hospitals and will admit Libyan patients into Jordanian hospitals for particular types of treatment.

Dr. Zeidan said that the talks with Dr. Abbadi and his team were constructive and fruitful and

constituted a firm step towards achieving integration between the two countries, in health fields.

"We have sought to benefit from Jordanian expertise in medical and technical fields because this will promote cooperation between the two sides," Dr. Zeidan said.

Dr. Zeidan invited Dr. Abbadi to visit Libya for further talks on scopes of bilateral cooperation.

## U.S. IMMIGRATION

Haig V. Kalbian  
Attorney-at-Law, Washington, D.C.  
Fluent in English, Arabic & French

Mr. Kalbian, a highly respected corporate and immigration lawyer will be in Amman during the second half of October 1991.

Appointments are now being taken. If you are interested in U.S. immigration based on the new law of 1990, a consultation with Attorney Kalbian is a must.

The new law eases immigration requirements in some of these areas:

- Investments
- Intra-company transfers
- Highly skilled professionals, researchers & professors
- Family relations in the United States

Call 615358 for an appointment.

Consultation fee - Seventy Five Dollars.

\* Investment packages will be available for review.

## ADVERTISEMENT



## New hair product to be introduced

AMMAN — Mithieb Haddad and Sons Company (agents of the Darleh Company in Germany) last Wednesday held a dinner at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel under the patronage of Husam Musmar, president of the Jordan Pharmacists Association, to introduce the new stimulant hair shampoo Neril.

The dinner was attended by a large audience of pharmacists and other concerned groups. Neril has been created specially as a stimulant shampoo to deal with the problem of early

hair loss and to create an opportune climate for sound hair growth. Neril can revive hair bulbs which have lost the ability to function regularly.

It should be noted that Neril has benefited millions of people around the world and proved its effectiveness in numerous cases of early hair loss.

Mithieb Haddad and Sons Company has won a concession to manufacture the Neril shampoo in Jordan and plans to place the new product on the market soon.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Charles Foster-Hall at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Marwan Al 'Alkan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Muslims' Attitude Towards Western Civilization" by Egyptian intellectual Hussein Ahmed Awad at the Abdel Hameed Shouman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.



# Jordan Times

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Sunday's economic pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Faneek

## Does agriculture have a future?

Just forty years ago Jordan was an agricultural country in the full sense of the concept. The agricultural sector used to contribute around one quarter of the gross domestic product (GDP), and employ around one third of its labour force. About half the population depended directly or indirectly on agriculture for their living. At that time the overall economic situation and well-being of the people depended largely on whether or not the country had a good season. The good season in its turn depended on the quantity or rain fall and its balanced distribution over time.

All this came to an end in a very short period of time. Today, the agricultural sector does not contribute more than eight per cent of the gross domestic product. It does not employ more than eleven per cent of the labour force, mostly non-Jordanians. Whether the season is good or bad is not more significant, except for those few families who depend on agriculture for their living and do not have a member of the family drawing a salary as a teacher or as a soldier.

What is more important is that agriculture in Jordan seems to have no future. First because the arable land is too little, less than eight per cent of the country's total area. Second because this

already too little arable land is shrinking year after year due to the expansion of cities and towns. Third because Jordan is rather dry and has no sufficient water resources for irrigation. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation will not allow farmers in the Jordan Valley to utilise this season more than one third of their farms, simply because water is not sufficient. Fourth, because the water available for irrigation, little as it may be, will become less and less with time, because more and more of it will be directed to domestic use. Fifth, because ground water in Jordan is being depleted even at the present dangerous level of consumption. It was determined that ground water is being pumped at a rate faster than the annual recharge. Such a state of affairs will lower the level of ground water, cause salination and damage the environment.

The writer is in no need to be reminded of the importance of the agricultural sector, its high value added production, its ability to create the much needed jobs, its ability to enhance self-sufficiency and food security, its potential to produce exports and earn foreign exchange etc. All these are good arguments beyond dispute. But that should not prevent us from admitting the bitter

fact that the agricultural sector in Jordan is exposed to retraction. It does not have the capability of growth until such time when Jordan can secure new external water resources and protect the arable land.

The only feasible source of water under consideration is the Turkish peace pipe-line, which, if implemented, can give Jordan a substantial amount of additional water at an affordable cost.

Until then the facts should lead us to reconsider the structure of agricultural sector by shifting away from crops that need intensive irrigation such as bananas, and replacing them with other crops less greedy for water. Unfortunately, the government pricing policy of irrigation water runs contrary to this aim. Cheap water tempts farmers to produce water intensive products, especially for export. When we export agricultural produce we are, in effect, exporting subsidised water. The artificial profits achieved are nothing but part of the loss in subsidising the scarce water sold to farmers at 25 per cent of the running cost or 10 per cent of the total cost. Admittedly the cost of water may be inflated due to inefficiency of the public sector in charge of its production and distribution.

## Arabs, Israelis grow nervous as peace conference approaches

By Alan Elsner  
 Reuters

NEW YORK — The United States is almost ready to issue invitations to an Arab-Israeli peace conference but as the event draws nearer, the participants are growing more nervous about taking a plunge into the unknown.

"The closer you draw to something that is a threshold event for these parties, the more they are going to want to talk about their concerns," a senior U.S. official said.

At the moment, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is working hard to calm nerves on all sides before sending invitations to the conference.

Mr. Baker, who may make one more trip to the Middle East, seems determined to convene the conference towards the end of next month, thus meeting a deadline laid down by President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at their Moscow summit in July.

"We're going to keep plugging away, do the best we can and hope we can make something happen in October," Mr. Baker said on Thursday.

This week, in a series of meetings on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Mr. Baker has held lengthy discussions with Arab foreign ministers and with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

The U.S. official said the talks were aimed at calming their anxieties. Mr. Baker was also drawing up letters of assurances to each party which would lay out procedure for the peace process and restate U.S. policy on key points.

"A lot of this is allowing each side to say, 'here is where we have concerns...' and having a chance to talk through how we approach this," he said.

Israel and its Arab neighbours have given conditional agreement to attend the peace conference. The Palestinian parliament-in-exile meeting in Algiers appears

on the point of giving its approval to the conference.

Mr. Baker has said he had still not decided on a date or venue for the conference, which will be a mainly ceremonial one or two-day event designed to launch bilateral negotiations between Israel and each of its Arab adversaries.

But the differences between Israel and the Arabs are so wide on all fundamental issues that many observers believe the process will get bogged down almost immediately after that.

Part of Mr. Baker's strategy is to design a process from which it will be difficult for any of the parties to walk away once the problems begin.

"He is trying to build some shock absorbers into a fragile process that could well fall apart almost instantly," said a Middle East diplomat.

Real peace talks will confront all parties with difficult dilemmas, but none more so than Israel. It will face the choice of

whether to try to hold on to occupied Arab lands or to exchange part of them for the promise of peace.

Israel's right-wing government, led by hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, is ideologically committed to keeping the territories captured in the 1967 war. Virtually all Israelis insist there can be no compromise on Arab East Jerusalem and its outer rings of new Jewish neighbourhoods.

But sticking to such a position in the negotiations may cost Israel the support of its guardian ally and chief financier, the United States. On the other hand, moving towards territorial compromise will open Mr. Shamir to grave political risks at home from his right-wing and religious constituency.

Some officials and diplomats expect Mr. Shamir to stall for time, possibly by bringing down his coalition and calling new elections.

"Neither Shamir nor the Arabs show any real enthusiasm for this

process. They have been manoeuvred into it by the United States because everybody wants and needs the friendship of the world's only superpower," said the Middle East diplomat.

He added: "That may well be enough to get us to the peace conference. But will it be enough to get us to peace?"

## LETTERS

### To complain or not to ...

To the Editor:

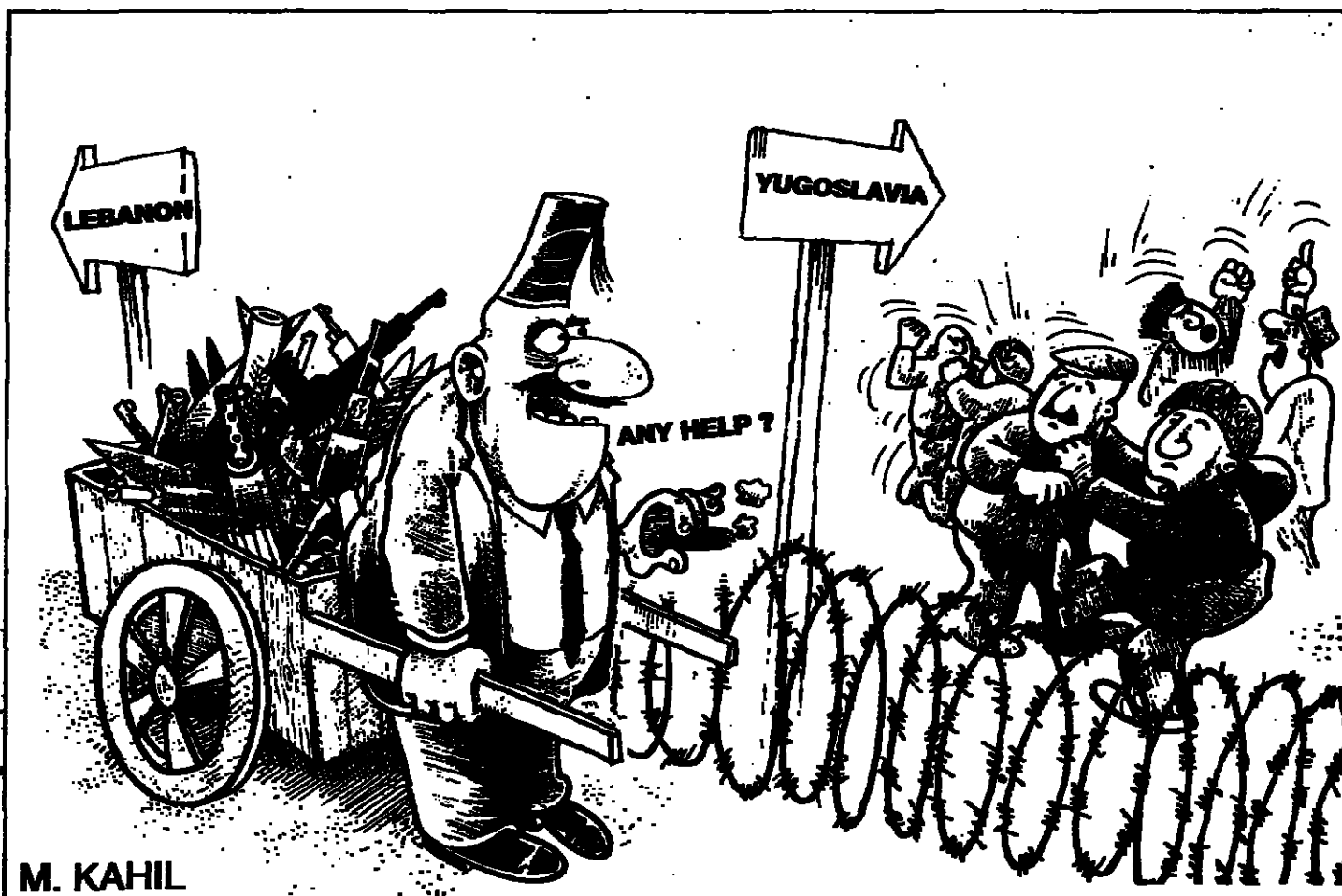
In the weeks following my previous two articles I monitored the media, and my mail box, for a reaction to my views. Perhaps not surprisingly, I did not see, or receive, any. Fully enough though, I have been approached on a personal basis, sometimes even in a confidential manner. Feelings have been mixed. From all the service patrons and national tourists that have read the article, I received many a pat on the back. It is as if everyone is aware of the issues I pointed out but nobody dares comment publicly.

A Hotel Association official, on the other hand, proceeded to elucidate a number of points, in criticising my arguments, that few in the public would be aware of, including me. However, it seems it is their policy not to get involved in public debates. Further more, one Tourism Ministry official, whom I met by chance while I was dining out one night, told me: "Guido! You are knocking Jordanian management, you are too young to do that." Knowing he was referring to my letter to the editor of August 29, 1991, I asked him if he would like to talk about it. He did not like to. Well, it seems that I have inflamed the pride of many an entrepreneur. If that is so, then I have failed to achieve my original goal: improvement.

Let me clarify a number of things. I am not knocking anything or anyone. I may be too young, but what does that have to do with bringing to public attention a number of issues that had better be resolved before the country experiences future tourist influx. Why should some people take it personally? It is not meant to be. I apologize if I gave that impression. But let me throw in my two cents worth once again.

Public opinion is the single most important factor that makes or breaks a business. Critique is the cheapest and most reliable constructive feedback a business can receive. If more people complained, then service and quality would improve and sales would probably rise. I agree that travel agents, hoteliers, and restaurateurs have to put up with a large number of unreasonable complainers. Tell me about it. I have known people to complain about the Pepsi being too fizzy, or a very well cooked fillet be chewy. Once, a guest even tried to bargain on the total of the bill as if he was buying a second hand bicycle. But this is no reason to shun critique altogether. Complaint handling is both an acquired skill and a marketing tool. We learn how to handle criticism so as to turn an unfavorable situation into a favorable one. A satisfied complainer tells five others how well they were treated. Conversely, if not properly handled, the dissatisfied customer tells nine others of your failings. "Front-line" employees should be provided with guidelines to handle complaints successfully, because, unless they see tangible results in facing irate guests, employees will tend to avoid what they consider to be a no-win situation. Finally, refunds are no solution to complaints. Customers expect a service, not a refund, which threatens to turn amateur complainers into cunning tricksters.

Guido Romero,  
 P.O. Box 910787,  
 Amman.



M. KAHIL

## Arms embargo seen as little threat to Yugoslav army

By Dusan Stojanovic  
 The Associated Press

BELGRADE — Serbia and its ally in the war with Croatia, the Federal Army, have little to fear from a U.N.-imposed arms embargo against all the factions fighting in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia produces about 85 per cent of its military equipment domestically, so military analysts say its army, the biggest in the Balkans, will face only minor problems as a result of the embargo, approved Wednesday by the U.N. Security Council.

Of far greater concern for the Serbs and Federal Army is a manpower shortage. Many Yugoslavs, including Serbs, are dodging the draft or deserting their units.

The arms embargo is more likely to hurt Croatian forces, who are fighting Serb rebels and the federal military almost entirely with weapons illegally supplied from abroad.

There have been frequent reports of Croats being arrested in the United States and European countries trying to smuggle weapons into their republic.

Croatia has managed to supplement its meager supply of weapons by imposing an embargo on food, electricity and water to

army barracks in the republic and forcing some of them to surrender their arms. But it still is no match for the firepower of Serb and federal forces.

A day before the embargo was announced, military analyst Miroslav Lazanski of the Belgrade daily Politika said in a television interview that an embargo would "not hurt the army."

Yugoslavia has a large military industry, and earned about \$2 billion a year on arms exports, mainly to Iraq and other Arab countries. Much of the equipment, especially light weapons, has a worldwide reputation for quality.

The army does import some sophisticated electronic gear for domestic-made warplanes, helicopters and radar systems. It imports spare parts for some of its older Soviet-built tanks and new MIG 29 fighter planes, as well as electronics and ejector seats from Britain, France and Sweden.

But the army is known to have good stocks of most of those parts on hand.

Serb rebels, with the backing of the Serb-dominated army, already have captured about a third of Croatia since the second-largest Yugoslav republic de-

clared independence June 25 together with neighbouring Slovenia.

Most of the estimated 600,000 ethnic Serbs living in Croatia say they do not want to live in an independent Croatia. They cite the memory of the independent pro-Nazi puppet state of World War II which killed an estimated 500,000 Serbs in concentration camps.

But Serb attempts to expand their borders into what is now Croatia could run around because of a lack of soldiers for the federal army.

Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina — four out of six Yugoslav republics — already have stopped sending recruits.

Most Croat and Slovene officers, including generals, have left the army in protest of military intervention in Croatia and earlier in Slovenia.

Faced with manpower shortages, the army, which was estimated to number 180,000 men in peace time, has started a massive call-up of Serb and Montenegrin reservists.

Unwilling to fight, thousands have refused the draft and thousands more have deserted despite warnings that they face

up to 10 years in prison.

In one vivid anti-war protest, army reservist Vladimir Zivkovic jumped in his armoured personnel carrier and drove from the front to the parliament building in Belgrade Monday.

There have been several demonstrations in Serbia against the draft and the call-up of reservists who claim they have been pushed onto the battlefield unprepared.

"I don't want to fight this stupid war, especially not in the communist army," said a reserve army officer who identified himself only as Dragan. He deserted along with his unit of 100 men after spending a week fighting on the Serbian-Croatian border.

He said his unit frequently came under "friendly fire" from the army and that some of his soldiers were given weapons that did not work.

"In addition, a federal army jet bombed our positions, injuring several of my men," said Dragan. He said he was not even given a map or binoculars, and while driving his tank had to stop and ask local residents for directions.

"In those circumstances, it was suicidal to stay there," he said. "If Serb politicians want to continue this war, they are more than welcome — but without me."

## Calling a spade a spade

To the Editor:

I read the letter written by Mr. Inad Khairallah, titled "Who robbed whom?" which you published in your paper on Sept. 4. I am dismayed to see an Arab writing to defend crimes. Stealing is stealing whether from your neighbour, cousin or your own brother, and Kuwait was all of this to Iraq. There is nothing romantic about stealing.

I have spent the last 21 years in Kuwait building one of the most successful private schools in the Middle East. It has helped to educate thousands of Arabs and other nationalities to university level. During the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the school was turned by them into army barracks. They looted and wantonly destroyed every single laboratory, the computer centres, the entire music department and most of the other educational departments and their equipment.

Many of my friends, including Palestinians and Jordanians, lost their successful businesses and had their factories and workshops dismantled and removed to Iraq. That is not to mention the hundreds of thousands of ordinary people of all nationalities who lost everything and had to flee Kuwait as refugees. They did not want to remain in Kuwait while it was under Iraqi rule.

Yes! It is unfair to compare Ali Baba with the twentieth century thieves of Baghdad.

Tareq S. Rajab,  
 P.O. Box 20817,  
 Safat - Kuwait.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address, as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Abul Abbas dropped from PLO Executive Committee

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Palestine National Council (PNC) on Saturday dropped Mohammad Abbas, the alleged mastermind of the 1985 Achille Lauro cruise ship hijacking, from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee.

The departure of Mr. Abbas, better known as Abul Abbas, was widely expected.

The election of the Executive Committee also brought in several new faces and was expanded from 15 to 18 members.

Yasser Arafat, PLO chairman, is trying to freshen the PLO's image and reportedly wanted Abul Abbas out of the limelight because of his past. Mr. Arafat was re-elected president of the State of Palestine.

Abul Abbas, 50, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, was replaced on the committee by an aide, Ali Ishak.

In October 1985, PLF guerrillas hijacked the Achille Lauro off Egypt. While at sea an American was killed.

Abul Abbas participated in

Egyptian-coordinated negotiations to end the episode. But the United States said he was the mastermind of the operation. Italy held him in custody for a time, let him go for lack of evidence, then eventually filed charges against him.

He also was implicated in a failed raid on an Israeli beach in May 1990 that left three of his men dead. Mr. Arafat apologized for the raid and said he had not been informed of it beforehand, but when he refused to expel Abul Abbas from the Executive Committee the United States ended 18 months of dialogue with the PLO.

"I am committed to my faction's decisions and to the PNC decisions," Abul Abbas told the Associated Press during the council meeting.

"If the PNC does not want to resume armed struggle against Israel, then it is up to them."

The PNC, ending a five-day meeting before dawn, elected a new 17-member Executive Committee.

Seven of the members of the

Executive Committee, which takes day to day decisions for the PLO, were new.

Abul Abbas was the most notable departure. Mr. Arafat announced that Abul Abbas had resigned so as not to be an obstacle to dialogue.

"Abul Abbas offered to resign from the day the United States suspended talks with the PLO. I told him it was up to the PNC to accept this," he said. "Today he has preferred to stand down for the good of Palestine."

The young generation of moderate leaders around Mr. Arafat did not get onto the committee as they were expected to do.

Mr. Arafat, according to delegates speaking after the PNC session, preferred not to upset the current balance of forces within the PLO by attacking the preponderance of traditional factions there as he tried to push ahead with efforts to back a U.S.-proposed peace conference.

Another newcomer was former banker Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi who lived up to a few months ago in Syria. He replaced

Mohammad Milhem, named to head the Palestinian centres for statistical studies and natural resources.

Mr. Nashashibi, who comes from one of the most prominent families in Jerusalem, was at one time close to Syrian-based dissidents.

The split Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has two representatives in the committee. One faction, a moderate group, is represented by Yasser Abed Rabbo. The other, backing traditional hardline chief Nayef Hawatmeh, has Tayseir Khaleel as a member.

Here are the newly elected members of the PLO Executive Committee with their affiliations. The number of seats on the committee was increased from 15 to 18.

— Yasser Arafat, chairman (Fateh);  
— Farouq Qaddoumi (Fateh);  
— Abdullah Hourani (independent);

— Mahmoud Darwish (independent);  
— Ali Ishak (New, the Palestine Liberation Front);  
— Abdul Rahim Mallouh (New, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine);

— Yasser Abed Rabbo (the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine DFLP — splinter faction);  
— Tayseir Khaleel (New, DFLP, mainstream faction);  
— Mahmoud Ismail (New, the Arab Liberation Front);  
— Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi (New, independent);  
— Yasser Amro (New, independent);  
— Archbishop Eliya Khouri (independent);  
— Jawid Ghossein (the Palestine National Front);  
— Shafik Al Hout (New, independent);  
— Samir Ghosheh (New, the Popular Struggle Front);  
— Saleman Najab (the Communist Party);  
— Jamal Sourani (independent).

## PNC accepts peace conference

(Continued from page 1)

"There is no section saying we will attend... it is aimed at facilitating the convening of a conference, not participation."

Washington has been pressing for a clear "yes" from the Palestinians to attend, removing what is seen as the last major obstacle to convening the conference.

The specific mention of the U.S.-Soviet peace plan is progress and Arafat seems to have got a mandate which will give him quite a lot of freedom to manoeuvre, said one diplomat.

Another said there were still some tough problems to get round, particularly the question of any Palestinian delegation to a conference, but there was a desire to make progress.

Israel insists it will not negotiate with the PLO or Palestinians from East Arab Jerusalem and wants the right to veto members of a Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Arafat himself in the five-day meeting which ended before dawn on Saturday, signalled a general desire for dialogue.

He announced that hardliner Mohammad Abbas had resigned from the PLO Executive Committee so as not to be an obstacle to dialogue (see page 5).

Abul Abbas was replaced on the committee by the deputy Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) leader, Ali Ishak.

The significant additions to the Executive Committee were Shafik Hout and Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi.

Mr. Hout is a sharp-witted diplomat who helped negotiate the guerrillas' evacuation from Lebanon during Israel's 1982 invasion. Mr. Nashashibi served for several years as the PLO's observer at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

A split in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the third largest of the PLO's nine factions, was officially recognised by the council which named a member of each of the two wings to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, who leads the muniteneers against DFLP Secretary-General Nayef Hawatmeh, retained his seat on the committee, and Tayseir Khaleel, a

senior aide to Mr. Hawatmeh, was added to the list.

Fateh, by far the largest of the factions, maintained the same three representatives on the committee — Mr. Arafat, Mr. Qaddoumi and Mahmoud Abbas.

The Hawatmeh faction said it had supported the resolution passed by the PNC on the understanding that it set out very strict conditions for participation in a peace conference.

The Damascus-based DFLP had threatened the resolution passed by the PNC meeting unless other groups agreed in advance to reject the U.S. peace conference plan.

The policy statement calls for "the right of the PLO to name the Palestinian delegation and to determine the formula of its participation in the peace conference, and the authority over the delegation would be the PLO."

When Bassam Abu Sharif, another Arafat adviser, was asked if the PLO would actually publicly name the delegates, he replied, "that is a different thing."

The PNC decision was a major breakthrough, ending the impasse in the delegates' discussions over Palestinian representation to the peace conference, aimed in part at establishing a Palestinian homeland.

The concessions may have resulted from a belief among many Palestinians that the conference could be a last chance at some sort of self-rule.

It was unclear, however, whether the compromise stance would be accepted by Israel, which has opposed any role — no matter how subtle — for the PLO in the conference planned for next month.

Mr. Arafat, who pushed the document through the parliament, strode to the stage after the vote and told the delegates:

"I vow, as I have vowed before, that we will continue to Jerusalem, to Jerusalem."

Hardliners opposed to the U.S. peace initiative particularly opposed the part saying the PLO had welcomed the U.S. efforts.

It read: "The PLO which has welcomed the current peace

efforts, and dealt with it positively, including the call by (U.S.) President George Bush and (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev to convene the peace conference to resolve the existing conflict in the Middle East, sees that the success of the efforts to convene the peace conference requires continuing the work with the other parties to achieve the following bases."

It sketched out six points, which moderate delegates said were not conditions, but which the PLO Executive Committee should work towards achieving ahead of the conference.

Said Kamal, PLO representative to Cairo, said: "It is not a list of conditions. It gives the green light for the Executive Committee and central committee to tackle the peace process on those bases."

The highlighted "points" or bases, included:

— International legality based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, calling for Israel's withdrawal from all land taken after the 1967 war.

Jerusalem to be seen as an integral part of the occupied territories.

A halt to Jewish settlements, including in Jerusalem, and international guarantees to ensure this.

The PLO's right to form its delegation, from Palestinians living inside and outside the territories, including Jerusalem, with a formula making the PLO a point of reference.

The PNC also spelled Palestinians' long-term aims from any conference negotiations — self-determination and independence, full Israeli withdrawal, settlement of the Palestinian refugee problem and ultimate removal of Jewish settlements.

Hardline groups based in Syria said the PNC had abandoned vital ground by supporting the U.S. efforts to hold Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"An initial reading (of the resolutions) shows they failed to reach the minimum we think is necessary to achieve a just and comprehensive peace," Khaled Al Fahom, head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, told Reuters.

## Israel awaits PNC fine print

(Continued from page 1)

"Our position has not changed one bit," Mr. Olmert said. "Yet we are looking forward to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation composed of residents of (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip."

Israel has agreed to attend the conference, planned for next month, on condition the PLO is kept out and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government has veto power over the Palestinian representation at the talks.

The government refuses to negotiate with the PLO.

Israel also refuses to talk to Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem.

On Friday Mr. Shamir ruled out a role in peace talks for Faisal Al Hussein and Haman Ashrawi, who have led Palestinian delegations which met Mr. Baker in his seven trips to the Middle East.

Both are residents of East Jerusalem. They associate with the PLO.

Israeli experts said Mr. Shamir would accept the two play a role in talks because of Washington's close co-ordination with them.

"Hussein and Ashrawi will be major players on the Palestinian side. They have a major role to play and they are not just figure heads. Israel has accepted this — Baker has been working out all the issues with them," Mr. Schueftan said.

He said that Israel had already accepted an indirect role for the PLO: "It's obvious that the leadership in the occupied territories is consulting with the PLO and could not go far without the backing of the PLO."

Yeltsin "gave high marks to the initiative and spoke in favour of identical huge cuts on the Soviet Union's side."

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said in New York that the Soviet Union was prepared "to meet U.S. steps halfway."

North Korea also welcomed the announcement. "If the United States really withdraws its nuclear weapons from South Korea, the way of our signing the nuclear safeguards accord will be opened," the foreign ministry said.

The hardline communist state has made the removal of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons from arch-rival South Korea a precondition to opening its nuclear facilities for international inspection.

Mr. Bush cabled details of the plan to Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin and others on Thursday, and followed that up with calls Friday to Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin and Western leaders, according to White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

British Prime Minister John Major, in a statement released soon after the speech, hailed the proposals and urged the Soviets to respond "with equal imagination."

RUSSIAN FEDERATION PRESIDENT

## Israel rejects Iran demand

(Continued from page 1)

return, release more Arab detainees.

Mr. Naveh insisted Tehran must take the next step by providing news on the missing Israelis. "The Iranians did not fulfill their commitment to give information on Yossi Fink and the fate of Ron Arad," Mr. Naveh told Reuters.

Navigator Arad, shot down over Lebanon in November 1986, is the only missing Israeli known to have survived capture. Fink, another Israeli soldier, has been missing since February 1986.

Mr. Velayati said Iran had no information on the airman and that it was for the Jewish state to release more Arab prisoners to ensure the freedom of Western hostages in Lebanon.

Israel freed 51 Arab prisoners and returned the bodies of nine guerrillas on Sept. 11 in exchange for the remains of missing Israeli soldier Samir Assad, captured in 1983.

Mr. Naveh said Israel had also been promised information on Fink in the deal. Israel has offered to free more Arabs in return for details about the Israeli servicemen.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has been conducting negotiations in past months during which information, bodies, prisoners and hostages have been swapped across borders.

## Israel, Soviet Union to restore diplomatic ties next month

NEW YORK (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy Friday, said he expected the two countries would restore diplomatic ties next month.

Mr. Pankin, who spoke after a one-hour private meeting with Mr. Levy at a hotel near the United Nations, added that relations would in any case be restored before a proposed Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Pankin met with Mr. Levy after a separate meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Pankin said the discussion with Mr. Levy was "productive and fruitful," adding: "We expect we can reestablish diplomatic relations in the very near future... for the sake of peace and justice throughout the whole region of the Middle East."

Mr. Pankin told reporters he saw "no obstacles to the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel" and said no major issues remained outstanding between the two countries. "We only want that this be done in the most favourable circumstances," he said.

Moscow severed diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967

war when Israel occupied the West Bank, the Golan Heights, Arab East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Israel also took the Sinai peninsula, but returned it to Egypt under the Camp David peace accords.

Asked Friday when the two countries expected to restore ties, Mr. Pankin said, "soon... October," then added: "Before a peace conference."

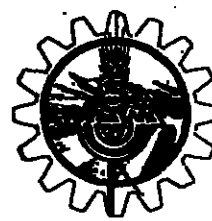
Washington and Moscow have proposed that a peace conference be attended by Israeli, Arab, Soviet and Palestinian representatives to be held in October.

Mr. Levy told reporters the meeting with Mr. Pankin dealt with "bilateral and Middle East issues, adding: "We agreed to maintain contact and decided to continue our discussions later on."

Mr. Levy added that he had invited Mr. Pankin to visit Israel and the Soviet foreign minister had accepted.

As for a Soviet role in any peace talks, Mr. Pankin indicated that the United States and the Soviet Union might serve as co-chairmen of a conference.

Mr. Levy said: "I hope that all problems will be solved and the conference will be held in the near future."



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PIANO  
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Senna has 83 points, Mansell 59.

**Secret matches held Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 23-24, 1991**

**Friday, Sept. 27, 1991**

## PINKIES

## STANDINGS

Chin. House	2	0	0	5-3	4
Int. Traders	0	0	2	5-8	0
Nash / Ebb	0	0	2	1-5	0

**WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMIE HIRSCH**

## ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

**Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you** your side strength, can support clubs vigorously at your next turn.

but lost to compatriot Brad Gilbert after playing one of the worst matches of his career.

end and be fit for the final because of the problem so it was better to retire," the American said. "I hope after a few days' rest it will be okay for Milan."

## Sanchez advances to Palermo semis

attempt with a three-set win over the Frenchman, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. "I haven't played any tournaments in many months and so I'm very content to have won two matches and to have enjoyed the publicity," Noah said.

CHS. 10000 FROM BOWEN, HAS. CHS. 10000

### Marseille Closes gap with Monaco

**Klinsmann extends contract with Inter**

### Museeuw leads Tour of Ireland

second place in the overall rankings over Dutchman Joop Kestel, who had led after the second stage. Museum's time for the first three stages was 13:25.33. Dutchman Adri Van Der Poel, one second behind Talen entering the third stage, fell on the finishing sprint and Talen had to brake to avoid him.

**FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1991**

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astronomer, Carroll Richter Foundation

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22)  
A great day for you to get rid of as many

**By Harris**

**"After all these years, I still see fireworks when you kiss me!"**

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**OPYPP**  
 O P Y P P  
 O P Y P P  
 O P Y P P  
 © 1994 American Education, Inc.

**GOBUM**  
 G O B U M  
 G O B U M  
 G O B U M

**SCYTIK**  
 S C Y T I K  
 S C Y T I K  
 S C Y T I K

**EXYONG**  
 E X Y O N G  
 E X Y O N G  
 E X Y O N G

**A BARGAIN SALE IS A PLACE WHERE MANY A WOMAN IS EXHAUSTED BEFORE—**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the correct answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: HER

**Yesterday's** Jumbles: AUGUR SPURN JERSEY MAMMAL  
Answer: The somnambulist's walking habit—PAJAMAS

## THE Daily Crossword by Carol Schultz

**ACROSS**

- 1 Menhaden
- 5 Brogan
- 8 Tops lightly
- 13 Grandiose tale
- 14 Nobleman
- 16 Mine entrance
- 17 Abounding in natural resources
- 18 Hobo
- 19 Punjabi city
- 20 German shoes
- 22 Toby's kin
- 24 Long fish
- 25 Women of the world?
- 26 Careful
- 31 Gola event
- 32 Notable time
- 33 Marshy water
- 35 Betrays
- 40 Sea bird
- 42 Countries
- 44 Main part
- 45 — with (flavored)
- 47 Gave over

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34 35 36 37 38

39 40 41 42 43 44 45

46 47 48 49 50 51 52

53 54 55 56 57 58 59

60 61 62 63 64 65

66 67 68 69 70 71

72 73 74 75 76 77

50 Of the same class  
52 Family circle

member	character	POOR SPAIN MAD	
54 Seesaw	9 Chum	ALNO PARRA ARI	
55 Metric measure	10 Goodbye	SLANDROFFER ARI	
56 Official	11 Real official	ALNO PARRA ARI	
61 Wearing kindly	12 Uninteresting	PASS CORR	
at the	13 Book part	ARINE MONROE	
65 Body of	21 Take up	PROOF SADR PARR	
Knowledge	22 Warnings and Cole	ALNO PARRA ARI	
67 Blackboard	26 River chuck	ALNO PARRA ARI	
68 Bright star	27 Abound	ALNO PARRA ARI	
69 Weathers	28 Warnings	ALNO PARRA ARI	
71 E're's neighbor	25 "Able was I —	ALNO PARRA ARI	
72 Embethel	saw Elba"	ALNO PARRA ARI	
73 Wand	30 City district	ALNO PARRA ARI	
74 P's of n.b.	34 Sailing group	ALNO PARRA ARI	
78 Look at	35 "My — and	ALNO PARRA ARI	
	Only"	ALNO PARRA ARI	
DOWN	37 Jack's wife	ALNO PARRA ARI	
1 Live!	38 Put a burden on	ALNO PARRA ARI	
2 Samson city	36 Arrange	ALNO PARRA ARI	
3 Lantern piece	compactly	ALNO PARRA ARI	
4 Outline	41 Hoisted	ALNO PARRA ARI	
5 Name of game	42 Healed to go	ALNO PARRA ARI	
6 Strong in flavor	47 Sworplay	ALNO PARRA ARI	
7 Speak	48 Bambi's mother	ALNO PARRA ARI	
pompously	51 Pulverize	ALNO PARRA ARI	
	53 Right away	62 Bjorn of her	
	54 Eagle claws	63 Moral band	
	55 Wear away	64 Woman of	
	56 "I was to go	65 Society	
	— Gen	66 Ship	
	Jonson"	68 Chemical	
	58 WY range	ending	

## Mutt'n'Jeff

A four-panel comic strip featuring Charlie Chaplin's Tramp character and a man in a top hat. The Tramp character is initially distressed about not sleeping, then offers a large sum of money to the top-hatted man for sleeping pills. The top-hatted man agrees, and the Tramp character is shown sleeping peacefully while the top-hatted man looks on.

Panel 1: The Tramp character is sitting on the ground, looking distressed. The man in the top hat is standing next to him, looking concerned.

Panel 2: The Tramp character is standing and talking to the man in the top hat.

Panel 3: The Tramp character is sitting on the ground, looking distressed. The man in the top hat is standing next to him, looking concerned.

Panel 4: The Tramp character is sleeping peacefully on the ground. The man in the top hat is standing next to him, looking on.



## Financial Markets

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	NFM/OTC Date 26/9/91	NFM/OTC Date 27/9/91
Sterling Pound	1.7285	1.7430
Deutsche Mark	1.6845	1.6699
Swiss Franc	1.4680	1.4530
French Franc	5.7475	5.6890
Japanese Yen	133.89	133.20
European Currency Unit	1.2157	1.2260

**Interbank Interest Rates**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.37	5.43	5.50	5.62
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.06	10.06	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.31	9.31	9.37
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.06	8.00	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.31	9.43	9.43
Japanese Yen	6.75	6.46	6.18	6.00
European Currency Unit	9.87	9.93	9.93	9.87

**Previous Month**

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.50	6.80	Silver	4.10	.095

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin**

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1951	1.2011
Deutsche Mark	.4105	.4126
Swiss Franc	.4720	.4744
French Franc	.1205	.1211
Japanese Yen	.5148	.5174
Dutch Guilder	.3642	.3660
Swedish Krona	.1116	.1122
Italian Lira	.0549	.0552
Belgian Franc	.01993	.02003

**Other Currencies**

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8000
Lebanese Lira	.01695	.01710
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1859	.1867
Qatari Riyal	.1859	.1867
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.7900
UAE Dirham	.1859	.1867
Greek Drachma	.3650	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4580	1.4680

**CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market**

Index	18/9/91	Close	25/9/91	Close
All-Share	118.17		119.89	
Banking Sector	98.99		100.55	
Insurance Sector	119.94		120.89	
Industry Sector	146.97		149.41	
Services Sector	127.14		127.69	

## Soviet president creates council to boost reform

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has created a special enterprise council to improve conditions for Soviet private businessmen and help speed free-market reform.

A presidential decree carried by the Soviet news agency TASS said the 28-member council would advise and assist in creating a legal and financial framework for free enterprise to expand.

"I believe that this is a revolutionary decision. It will help us move towards the market at the necessary speed," said Arkady Volok, one of four prominent reformers appointed by Mr. Gorbachev last month to take charge of the Soviet economy.

Mr. Gorbachev's decree said the council should use methods employed by other countries to support entrepreneurship, and foster contacts with international business circles. It should also help promote fair competition and counter monopolies.

## Italy resumes granting export credits to Syria

ROME (R) — Italy has resumed granting export credits to Syria, blocked after the European Community (EC) froze relations with Damascus over its alleged role in the attempted bombing of an Israeli airliner, officials said Friday.

The EC decided last year to end the four-year freeze in relations with Damascus after Syria sided with the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq over the invasion of Kuwait.

The Italian export credit agency SACE gave no reasons for granting medium and long-term credits again to Syria. The decision was taken at a SACE meeting Thursday.

A brief agency statement said a ceiling would be placed on credits for Syria, but gave no details.

Syria owes Italy 37 billion lire (\$29 million) in Italian government-guaranteed credits and has fallen behind on a slightly smaller amount of private debt, the officials said.

The European Parliament's External Economic Relations Committee, citing concerns about human rights, this week held up a European Commission plan for \$185 million in EC grants and loans to Syria by refusing to issue a formal opinion on it.

## Israel's Koor signs long-awaited debt rescheduling accord

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's troubled Koor Industries Ltd Koor signed a long-awaited restructuring deal with its creditors Friday, cutting its debts by one third and removing the threat of bankruptcy, the company said.

Under the accord, which took three years to complete, Israel's largest industrial conglomerate restructured its debts to Israeli and foreign banks and bondholders. Koor includes electronics, infrastructure, chemicals, food and trade firms.

Under the agreement, Koor's nearly \$1.2 billion debt shrunk by some \$450 million. Share capital now totals \$150 million against a negative figure of about \$70 million in the second half of 1991.

"Today marks the birthday of a new Koor with a bright future. The burdens of the past have been eased, our operations are profitable and the heavy shadow of uncertainty about the company's prospect has been removed," said Koor's Managing Director Benjamin Gaon.

Koor reported a net loss of 112 million shekels (\$48.5 million) in the first half of 1991 compared with a loss of 84 million shekels during the same period the previous year. Annual sales are \$2.6 billion and it has 20,000 workers.

Koor was 97 per cent owned by the Hevat Haovdim, economic arm of Israel's Histadrut labour federation. But by the end of the agreement's implementation Hevat Haovdim will own less than 26 per cent of the company. The rest of its shares will be held by banks, the government and the public.

Koor's debts to Israeli banks, mostly to Bank Hapoalim, will be cut by \$200 million while the remaining \$400 million will be paid over nine years.

A \$200 million debt to foreign banks will be cut by \$40 million and the rest will be paid in a combination of cash (\$85 million), ordinary shares (\$35 million) and a new four-year debt (\$40 million).

## Romanian food price inflation tops 200%

BUCHAREST (R) — Official figures published Friday showed Romanian food price inflation, one of the latest causes of current political violence, exceeding 200 per cent.

The National Statistics Commission monthly bulletin showed that consumer prices had risen by an average of 197.2 per cent since inflation data began to be collected last October — with food price rises amounting to 229.2 per cent up to the end of August.

"Prices for non-food items jumped by 200.8 per cent. The lowest area of price rises was in the services sector, where the increase was 122.3 per cent, the bulletin reported.

Prime Minister Petre Roman, who was forced by rioting miners to resign Thursday, had introduced a series of reforms over the past 10 months that ended state subsidies and liberalised prices.

Meanwhile, Romania has asked the European Community (EC) for 1.5 million tonnes of wheat and other food aid to help it through the winter, a European Commission spokesman said Friday.

He said first unofficial estimates were that the total cost of the gifts sought by Bucharest would exceed \$600 million — 10 times the amount of EC food aid committed to Romania so far this year.

The spokesman said commission officials might go to Bucharest to study the food aid request when the situation there allowed.

The request included 300,000 tonnes of potatoes, 10,000 tonnes of butter, 10,000 tonnes of cheese and 2,000 tonnes of milk powder, he added.

The commission hopes to start exploratory talks with the Romanian government in October on the possibility of an association agreement with the EC.

## Jordanian government seeks to rechannel its investments

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In line with a shift in policy and strategy, the government is planning to dispose off part of its investments in private sector-dominated establishments as well as newspapers, but will do so without causing any undue fluctuations at the Amman Financial Market, according to official sources.

"The concept that guides government investments is that there is no necessity to hold on to shares in entities and projects once they are well-established," said a senior official. "The capital freed from the existing projects will be diverted to new projects, mostly in the industrial production area," added the official, who preferred to remain anonymous.

Among the shares to be floated at the Amman Financial Market are those held by the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), a direct government agency, in some of the leading hotels and

the Al Ra'i and Al Dustour newspaper establishments.

Mohammad Batayneh of the JIC told the Jordan Times that while a decision in principle had been taken to dispose off JIC shares "in some of the hotels and other establishments, no definite move" had been set in motion to actually put the shares in the market.

"Decisions to actually sell some of the shares in some of the establishments depend on various factors and timing," he said without elaboration.

The JIC decision to sell its shares in the two newspapers comes in line with a provision in a draft law on press and publication, limiting government participation to 30 per cent.

The law has not been endorsed by parliament and influential parliamentarians from both the upper and lower houses say that they would seek to eliminate government investment altogether in any newspaper as and when the draft legislation comes up for

debate on the floor.

The Council of Ministers has given the green light for the sale of the 15 per cent shares owned by the JIC in Al Ra'i and Al Dustour.

The JIC owns around one third of Amman's two leading hotels — Marriott and Philadelphia — in addition to shares in the Ma'in Spa Hotel, the Coral Beach Hotel in Aqaba and the Al Himmeh Spa in the north as well as several other facilities related to tourism in the Kingdom.

According to Mr. Batayneh, the JIC has invested more than JD 150 million in various projects in the country. The JIC official did not provide any figure for the funds still available with the organisation for investments.

JIC Acting Manager Saleh Rifai was recently quoted as saying that the corporation would seek not to cause any disruption or undue fluctuation at the Amman Financial Market while offering its shares for sale to the public.

was turning its focus to starting up new projects rather than continuing to tie down its funds in entities which have already been established and doing well.

The corporation is now inviting private-sector participation, in carrying out feasibility studies on projects. Among the studies already completed or under way are projects to set up a glass fibre plant, a glass container plant and a facility to manufacture polypropylene sacks for grain.

Majority shares in these projects are expected to be held by the private sector while the JIC will limit its participation to less than 20 or 15 per cent.

The JIC was formally endorsed as the centralised government investment agency by a Royal Decree issued last week. It now groups all government shares in various establishments and the capital available with the Pension Fund, which was founded in 1976 and owned holdings in a multitude of commercial organisations.

## Canadians resume national strike

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian government workers, calling the state's latest pay offer a "slap in the face," resumed Friday a national strike that had crippled services for 10 days earlier this month.

The 70,000 employees again halted grain shipments, paralysed some government services and were considering whether to delay flights at airports and slow goods moving across the U.S. border.

"We do not take this action lightly," union president Daryl Bean told reporters. "However, once again, an inflexible government has chosen to declare war on its own employees, with no regard for the future morale and productivity of the federal public service."

The workers are protesting the government's decision to freeze their wages this year and impose raises of three per cent in each of the next two years as part of a plan to help control inflation and slash the budget deficit.

The earlier walkout ended when the union and the government agreed to resume negotiations and the ruling conservatives withdrew back-to-work legislation imposing stiff fines on defiant workers.

But Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government has warned workers it would reintroduce the legislation if they resumed the strike.

The government, in its latest offer, held firm on the wage freeze but offered a 500-dollar (\$444) contract-signing bonus to 10,500 lower-paid members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC).

"It is in effect a slap in the face," Mr. Bean said.

Treasury Board President Gilles Loiseleur rejected the union's demand to appoint an independent mediator.

"I myself am beginning to wonder if PSAC really wants a settlement," Mr. Loiseleur told parliament. "We made new offers and I expect them to be considered."

The union said it would decide at the weekend whether to slow traffic at border crossings to the United States and delay flights as members did in the walkout two weeks ago.

## 'The recovery is in trouble' U.S. consumer confidence falls for 3rd straight month

NEW YORK (AP) — Consumer confidence tumbled again in September, a grim portent for the already choppy U.S. economic recovery, the conference board has said.

The business-supported research group said its consumer confidence index skidded nearly 3.5 points to 72.7. The drop was the third straight decline in the index, which is compiled from a survey of 5,000 households nationwide and is widely followed as an indicator of consumer sentiment.

The decline raised new concerns about the economic recovery, which cannot proceed without help from consumers. Consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of the gross national product.

Further bad news about consumer spending came from Ford Motor Co., which said its car sales fell 22.6 per cent in mid-September. Other carmakers also were expected to report weak sales.

"Given recent consumer confidence readings, those who expect the economy to rebound in the remaining months of the year are likely to be disappointed," said Conference Board economist Fabian Linden.

"A concerned and insecure consumer is a cautious spender," he said.

Mr. Linden said consumers are increasingly worried about the current state of the economy, and are also ambivalent about business conditions six months from now.

Unemployment continues to be a particular concern. Forty per cent of the respondents said jobs are currently hard to get, while only 7.5 per cent called jobs plentiful.

The Conference Board said the current view of jobs is the most negative since the 1982 recession.

The survey was conducted by National Family Opinion Inc. of Toledo, Ohio.

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy declined at a worse-than-expected annual rate of 0.5 per cent in the spring, and there was a big jump in laid-off workers seeking jobs benefits early this month, the government has said.

The downward revision in the

gross national product (GNP) the country's total output of goods and services, and the 8.9 per cent increase in the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits were the latest signs of a struggling economy, analysts said.

"The recovery is in trouble," said David Jones, an economist at Aubrey G. Lanston and Co., a government securities dealer.

The weak spots are employment, consumer spending and housing. Those could be dangerous signs that the recovery will stall out.

Analysts had been expecting the GNP report to show new-found weakness from April through June, but they were surprised that the drop was put at 0.5 per cent, with consumer and government spending and business restocking of inventories all revised lower.

It marked the second straight downward revision. Originally, the economy was thought to have actually been growing at an annual rate of 0.4 per cent in the spring. That was revised last month to show a slight 0.1 decline.

The rise in jobless claims to 439,000 for the week ending Sept. 14, up from 403,000 the previous week, was seen as even more worrisome because it showed that layoffs, which should be declining in a normal recovery, are beginning to rise again.

The increase left jobless claims at their highest level in three months. Analysts said only part of the jump could be explained away by the fact that it reflected a rebound following a holiday-shortened filing period in the previous week.

The Bush administration continues to insist that the recovery from the recession has begun, most likely in May, and that the GNP will rebound and begin growing at annual rates of between two per cent and three per cent in the last half of the year.

But administration officials also concede that various statistics have shown the economy growing at a slower pace than they would like to see as the country heads into a presidential election year.

President Bush conveyed two meetings last week of his cabinet-level economic policy council to discuss what more the government needs to do to spur the

economy.

Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Alan Greenspan met with President Bush and his top economic policymakers Friday and analysts expect officials will step up the pressure for the Fed to cut interest rates further.

"There is no question but the administration wants Greenspan to cut rates again," said David Wynn, chief financial economist at DRI-McGraw Hill. Mr. Wynn predicted that the Fed will go along, especially in light of an unrelenting string of weak economic reports showing drops in housing sales, manufacturing orders and consumer confidence.

Michael Evans, head of a Washington forecasting firm, said the latest batch of Fed news forced him to trim his forecast for GNP growth in the final half of this year to around one per cent.

That would be far below the 3.2 per cent growth needed to reach the administration's forecast that the economy will expand by 0.8 per cent for the full year.

The hardships caused by the recession were highlighted in another report that showed the number of Americans living in poverty rose 5.5 per cent last year to 33.6 million. It was the first increase since 1983 when the poverty was emerging from the previous recession.

In yet another bad economic report, the government said that corporations' after-tax profits fell a revised 3.5 per cent in the second quarter, even worse than the originally reported 1.6 per cent. It was the third quarterly decline in profits and left them at an annual rate of \$160.6 billion, their lowest point since the last three months of 1987.

While revising the GNP decline to make it worse, the government said that inflation was subdued during the second quarter with a GNP price index tied to an unchanged marketbasket of goods and services rising by only 3.1 per cent at an annual rate. That was down significantly from 5.2 per cent in the first quarter.

Before the 0.5 per cent drop in the April-June quarter, the GNP fell at an annual rate of 1.6 per cent in the October-December quarter last year and 2.8 in the January-March period this year.

The three consecutive declines left the GNP, after adjusting for inflation, at \$4,119 trillion in the second quarter.

## THE SPANISH CULTURAL CENTRE

The Spanish Cultural Centre announces the move of its premises to:

Jabal Amman - Third Circle — behind Hotel Jordan Intercontinental - near Al Sharq Restaurant/Abu Ahmad, Mohammad Hafez Muaz Street, as of Sept. 30, 1991

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Oct 3, 1991  
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**Cinema PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

**KING OF NEW YORK**

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Cinema RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

**ROOF TOPS**

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

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**JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD**

**Invitation to Tender 18F/91**

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 18F/91 for the supply of two calcining drums. The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman supply department until 2:00 p.m. local time Tuesday 5.11.1991. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 130 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submission tender is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday 12, November 1991.

**Wasef Azar**  
Managing Director



# Georgian factions are moving towards accord; streets quiet

TBILISI, Soviet Union (R) — Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia and rebel factions appeared to be moving towards agreement Saturday to end bloodshed in the southern republic.

But in Moscow, focus of efforts to forge a new confederation replacing the centralised Soviet state, signs grew of an economic crisis threatening the entire region. Top economist Grigory Yavlinsky said Soviet gold and currency reserves had been dramatically cut over the last year.

"Over one year, we have cut our gold reserves by over two thirds and lost our foreign currency deposits. Where will we be in a year?" He asked in a television interview Friday night.

In the Republic of Georgia, rebel guards at the central television studios seized two weeks ago were reduced overnight and the gunfire that had echoed through the night over the last week was absent.

Opposition groupings met at the studios to decide strategy and the military set up checkpoints

through the capital, Tbilisi, but there were no incidents.

Opposition officials hinted at a breakthrough after days of fruitless contacts with the government, saying they had sent a four-man delegation for talks with government representatives.

For the first time, the government delegation included a personal representative of Mr. Gamsakhurdia — his justice minister — and the city commandant. The opposition included a top official of the rebel National Guard and moderate deputies.

Georgian Radio, however, raised uncertainty by announcing a curfew from 10 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday — a step Mr. Gamsakhurdia had drawn back from previously.

There was no immediate explanation and no confirmation from the military but the move could be intended to force on Saturday's talks.

The opposition had originally demanded the resignation of Gamsakhurdia, whom they accuse of suppressing all opposition and pushing the republic towards dictatorship.

That demand has been dropped by the opposition over the last 10 days of stalemate.

But leading oppositionist Eldar Shengalaya said the opposition still wanted government control of the press to be abolished, the release of political prisoners and a special parliamentary debate to be broadcast live on television.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a former dissident, was elected president in May in a landslide victory. Since then some of his closest allies have turned against him although he retains strong popular support especially in the provinces.

His long-time personal friend Tengiz Kitovani led a rebellion in the National Guard he commands and the guard has become the spearhead of the campaign against him.

Mr. Kitovani has been criticised by moderate opponents of Mr. Gamsakhurdia for announcing two nights ago that 30 of his men had been slaughtered at a camp near Tbilisi. The report caused panic but turned out to be unfounded.

If the street resistance dies, Mr. Gamsakhurdia would face little danger in parliament. Under the constitution a three-quarters majority is needed to force his resignation.

Meanwhile the Komsomol, the ruling Communist Party's onetime youth movement, is expected to follow its parent organisation into oblivion this weekend when disillusioned members hold an emergency congress.

Once the ladder to power for the young and ambitious, the Komsomol lost its political role in the aftermath of last month's coup attempt and the dissolution of the party.

TASS dismissed it as "spiritually obsolete."

"An old totalitarian organisation is dying," Komsomol Central Committee Secretary Andrei Aleimkov wrote in its former newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda. "Tomorrow the all-union Leninist Young Communist League (YCL) will not exist."

## U.K. Labour Party gets fresh boost

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major's ruling Conservatives took a fresh blow when the latest opinion poll showed the opposition ahead on a majority of key issues.

An ICM Survey in Saturday's Daily Mail newspaper said voters put the opposition Labour Party ahead on seven of 11 issues — health, education, unemployment, transport, environment, local government and standard of living.

The Conservatives were ahead on just four — inflation, nuclear weapons and defence, Europe and taxation.

Mr. Major, his government under fire because of a deep

economic recession and rising unemployment, must hold an election by next July.

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Television reported Thursday night that an NOP poll gave Labour 42 per cent of the vote, up three from an NOP poll earlier this month. The Conservatives, in power for 12 years, were down two on 39 per cent.

A strong lead in the opinion polls might have tempted Mr. Major to gamble on a snap election in November, commentators said. But they said recent polls had made such an election most unlikely.

"Labour's three per cent lead

## Mobutu ready for Zaire crisis talks with opponents

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's hard-line opposition geared up for power-sharing talks with President Mobutu Sese Seko in his marble palace Saturday.

Intense Western pressure on the 60-year-old president paved the way for the meeting after a week of looting and army mutinies pushed Zaire to the brink of complete anarchy.

Mr. Mobutu's first talks with the opposition's "sacred union" alliance, were expected to start by midday (1100 GMT) and might go on for hours, government sources said.

Tough statements by Western ambassadors in Kinshasa left no doubt they want Mr. Mobutu to form a government of national unity with outspoken adversaries of his 26-year-old regime.

Zaire was still shell-shocked Saturday six days after soldiers protesting over their pitiful wages first went on the rampage in Kinshasa and other cities.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians joined in the orgy of looting, leaving the capital devastated and facing an imminent food crisis.

There were no reports of major incidents in Kinshasa Friday night. The night before, Zairean troops took advantage of the curfew to loot again.

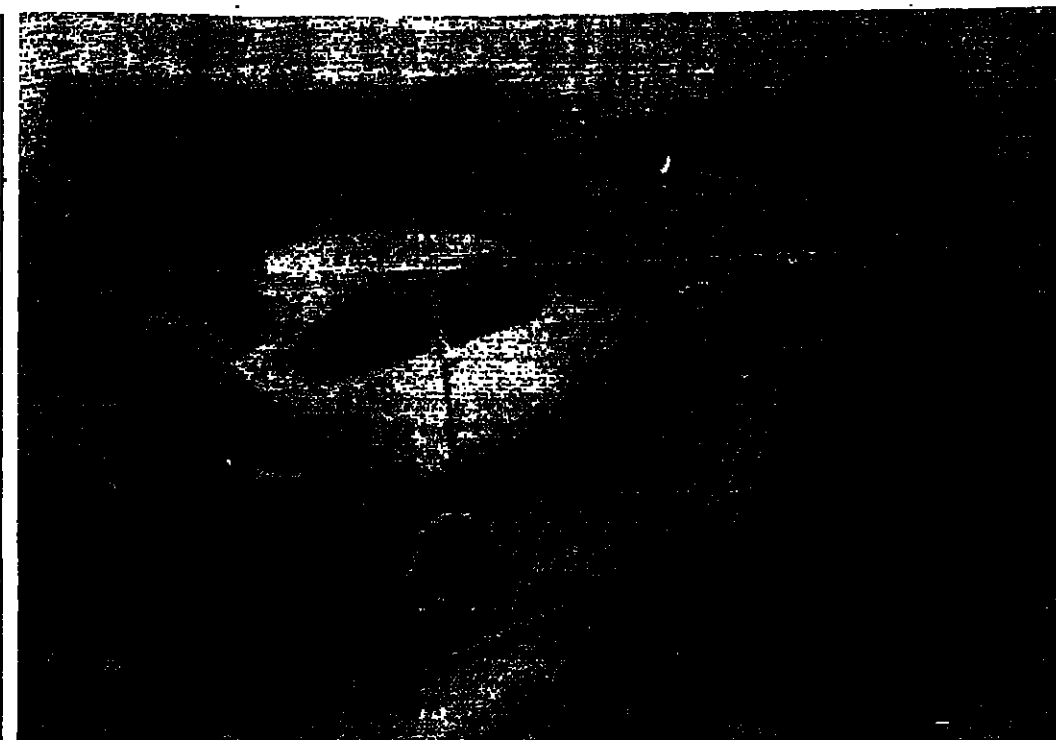
French and Belgian troops fan-

## Dutch reject changes in EC union proposals

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, whose nation holds the European Community (EC) presidency, has rejected criticism of a Dutch draft treaty bringing the trade bloc nearer to political union.

The draft treaty, which increases the authority of the European parliament and other community institutions has been strongly criticized by EC nations, notably Britain, who oppose moves towards a federal Europe.

Mr. Lubbers said the criticism had been too varied to warrant an overhaul of the proposed Dutch version of the European Political Union (EPU) treaty.



An 15-year-old Croatian girl, armed with a shotgun, helps clear a bridge blockade in Zagreb

## EC envoy says 'uncontrolled people' disrupt Yugoslav peace

ZAGREB (R) — Scattered fighting disturbed Yugoslavia's ceasefire Saturday and a European Community (EC) envoy blamed "uncontrolled people" on both sides for the continued clashes.

Croatian Radio reported two dead and 14 wounded during the night and early Saturday in the eastern Croatian town of Osijek and surrounding villages where the Yugoslav army and Serbian fighters are facing Croatian forces.

But there were no immediate reports of clashes on other fronts in Croatia where more than 1,000 people have been killed since its declaration of independence last June.

Simon Smits, head of a team of EC ceasefire monitors in Croatia, said new arrangements for strengthening the week-old truce were being implemented.

He said Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic, head of the Serbian-led army and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman were both committed to the ceasefire but were not in full control of their forces.

"The ceasefire holds and both parties are committed within their capability," Mr. Smits said. "Uncontrolled people are the problem that neither Kadijevic nor Tudjman can account for."

Mr. Smits said special EC peace envoy Henri Wijnants, a Dutch diplomat, had apparently agreed with authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina to extend ceasefire monitoring arrangements to the volatile republic sandwiched between Croatia and Serbia.

Tanjung News Agency reported an agreement between the army and civil authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina to raise daily to smooth out problems over Serbian and Montenegrin reservists whose arrival there threatened a conflict with Croats and Muslims.

The truce is the first of Yugoslavia's five ceasefires since July to have restored relative calm for as long as a week.

The army's withdrawal from two frontline towns in Croatia since last Sunday's truce accord has raised cautious hopes for a limited disengagement of forces.

The army pulled back from Vinkovci in eastern Croatia Thursday and from Sinj near the Adriatic coast Friday.

It also agreed to withdraw some reservists from the Mostar region of Bosnia-Herzegovina to barracks after complaints that they could provoke a conflict with Croats and Muslims.

Fighting has subsided since Wednesday, when Gen. Kadijevic and the presidents of Croatia and Serbia agreed on undisclosed measures to shore up the truce.

They declared a need for exclusively political solutions to the country's crisis.

The decision of an EC-sponsored peace conference on Yugoslavia to speed up efforts also raised peace hopes. The conference is seeking to map out a new model for Yugoslavia's future on which all six republics can agree.

Mr. Wijnants said after talks with Gen. Kadijevic, Mr. Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that he saw new hope of ending the fighting.

Croatian officials said Mr. Tudjman and Gen. Kadijevic since held further contacts. "It will get calmer and calmer," an official said.

Croatia accuses Serbia and the army of trying to create a greater Serbia by occupying areas of Croatia and other republics where Serbs are in the majority.

It believes the army may have decided after recent tough resistance to pull back to areas of Croatia where the republic's 600,000-strong Serbian minority predominates.

However, a senior army official said the army, which pulled out of the northern Republic of Slovenia after its declaration of independence in June, would not accept Croatia's demand to leave.

## COLUMN

### Marx, Lenin sold by the pound

NEW DELHI (AP) — The works of Communist philosophers and famous Russians were sold by the pound when the Soviet Cultural Department closed its library in the south Indian city of Trivandrum. Balaji, the scrap dealer who bought the books for 8 cents a kilogramme (less than 4 cents a pound), became an overnight celebrity. Scholars, politicians and even police flocked to him to sort through the half-tonne of books piled on the pavement where he does business. "Five hundred kilogrammes (1,100 pounds) of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Brezhnev, Tolstoy and Pushkin ... have made Balaji a celebrity overnight," the Indian Express newspaper reported from Trivandrum, capital of Kerala state. The paper said a professor was among the first to learn of Balaji's recent acquisitions and started the sidewalk stampede. The matter did not end there. The issue surfaced in the Kerala legislature, once controlled by a Communist Party and still sympathetic to socialism. Police were ordered to salvage what they could, but only 33 pounds of the books remained.

### Store chain halts sales of yes-no women's shorts

TORONTO (R) — Department store chain Sears Canada Inc said it would stop selling women's boxer shorts which have nonono printed in black all over them, changing to a neon green yesyesyes in the dark. Susan Pettigrew, a mother of two from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, wrote to the company complaining that the 12.99 dollar Canadian (\$11.59 U.S.) shorts made light of a no-means-no campaign against date and acquaintance rape. The company said in a statement the glow-in-the-dark shorts are no longer on sale in its stores.

### Indian ministers barred from taking spouses on trips

NEW DELHI (R) — India barred government ministers Tuesday from taking their spouses on foreign trips, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. Cash-strapped India is committed to cutting expenditure and opposition leaders and newspapers have criticised ministerial tours as wasteful. PTI said the decision was taken at a cabinet meeting.

### 1 in 5 New Zealand school principals is on medication

WELLINGTON (R) — One in five New Zealand junior school head teachers is on medication for stress brought on by increased workload, according to a survey published Tuesday. The survey of 1,200 teachers was commissioned by the Head Teachers' Federation after one committed suicide and another was killed after falling asleep while driving home. Teachers cited conflict with or pressure from boards of trustees, too much paper work, lack of support and inexperience in their new role under a revamped education programme. Head teachers were also having to cope with social problems brought on by New Zealand's recession. The survey found stress prompted 43 per cent to consult their doctors in the past 12 months, 22 per cent to go on medication and 65 per cent to consider leaving their jobs.

### 4,000-year-old iceman's arrows and quiver found

VIENNA, (R) — Scientists probing the glacier site where the well-preserved body of a bronze age man was discovered said Thursday they had found a 4,000-year-old leather quiver full of arrows. The new find completed an array of ancient equipment carried by the man, including a bronze axe, a bow, a leather pouch with a fire flint, a wooden backpack and a stone necklace. The fresh discovery, on a mountain top between Austria and Italy, augmented a veritable treasure trove of early history, according to the scientists involved. "I don't like superlatives, but yes, this is the only body of a bronze age man found in a glacier and certainly the best preserved corpse of that period ever found," Professor Konrad Spindler of Innsbruck University said. "Corpses of that period found in Germany, Scandinavia or Britain — peat bogs didn't have that much of inner organs and skin left intact," he added.

## Austria, Italy call for U.N. human rights intervention

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Austria and Italy called Friday for increased U.N. intervention to safeguard human rights, even at the risk of violating sovereignty. Austria called for a special U.N. force to be available for human rights duty.

Earlier this week, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called for a special international Court of Justice to hear human rights cases. He also said additional concepts of sovereignty should not prevent international intervention.

The idea of protecting human rights dominated the General Assembly this week. But most Latin and Third World nations, wary of any threats to sovereignty, have not endorsed intervention in the affairs of a member state to safeguard human rights.

The U.N. charter currently prohibits interference in the affairs of any state unless the situation jeopardises international peace and security.

On Friday, Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock called for a permanent U.N. force to be on call to prevent and redress human rights violations and to be deployed on an emergency basis in any country.

"Violations of human rights, wherever they occur must not be

## Romanian forces snuff out riots

BUCHAREST (R) — Riot police launched a pre-dawn charge on drowsy demonstrators early Saturday, snuffing out the latest flareup of political unrest in Romania.

Central Bucharest had almost returned to normal as the weekend began, although three days of rioting led by 8,000 coalminers left a fragile government under a caretaker leader.

Prime Minister Petre Roman, whose resignation was accepted by President Ion Iliescu Thursday in a frightened concession to the rioters, appeared to be fighting his way back.

Street cleaners swept up shards of plate glass and hosed away lingering tear-gas.

A hard core of some 500 miners chased from the central square under a deafening hail of flames and stun grenades soon after five a.m. rode a special train home to the Jiu Valley 300 kilometres west.

"For the time being we're forced to go back home. We're not very sure if our demands for better pay and cheaper food will be met or we'll be cheated," said minerworker Vasile Cristea, one of those who stayed on in Bucharest trying to force Mr. Iliescu to step down.

The miners' petrol-bombing, glass-smashing rampage had already damaged government headquarters, the parliament and the state television centre.

But they stopped by a palanquin of troops and police Friday when they turned on Mr. Iliescu's Cotroceni Palace.

Before dawn Saturday, as the miners lay exhausted around campfires in University Square, white-helmeted riot police executed the coup de grace, encountering virtually no resistance as they scattered the protesters.

According to Health Ministry figures, two people died during the three days of violence and 135 were taken to hospital with wounds, including 23 miners, 28 civilians and 84 police or security men.

In statements to foreign television networks as the violence abated, Mr. Roman suggested fresh elections.

But Mr. Iliescu, who was meeting leaders of the major parties Saturday to discuss forming "a government of broad national openness," has played down that idea.

They would take several months to organise, he said Friday. In the meantime, the country might be better with a "non-party premier."

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### St. Petersburg mayor rejects aid

FRANKFURT, Germany (R) — St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, stepping up a campaign to promote investment in Soviet agriculture, said Friday it would be humiliating for Russia to receive simple food handouts from the West. "Russia is not Ethiopia," Mr. Sobchak said in a speech at a banking conference in Frankfurt. Humanitarian aid would be an insult to the dignity of his nation. The mayor of St. Petersburg was one of the leading challengers to last month's failed coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He proposed the Soviet Union buy \$10 billion worth of European Community (EC) food surpluses which would be paid for in the Soviet currency, about 150 billion roubles. The roubles could initially be reinvested into the Soviet economy, with the help of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

### 39 killed as typhoon hits Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Typhoon Mireille, pelting Japan with heavy rains and strong wind, has killed at least 39 people, injured 660 and blacked out more than 3 million households, authorities said Saturday. Mireille, the 19th typhoon spawned in the Pacific this year, hit Japan's southern shores Friday afternoon with winds gusting up to 212 kph (133 mph). Heavy rains triggered landslides and widespread flooding on the southern island of Kyushu, where 10 deaths were reported Friday. According to the National Police Agency, 39 people had been killed, most by falling debris, landslides and floods, nationwide as of Saturday afternoon. Another six people were reported missing and 660 injured. Police said the typhoon capsized 32 ships and flooded 10,614 homes.

### Yeltsin due back in Moscow on Oct. 10

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, whose health has been the subject of speculation, is on holiday at the Black Sea resort of Sochi and due to return to Moscow on Oct. 10, Russian television said Friday. Its mid-evening news said Mr. Yeltsin, who played a leading role in the defeat of last month's coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, was resting. Reports earlier this month of a mild heart attack caused nervousness on Western financial markets. But Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman said the 60-year-old leader was merely tired. A spokesman said Friday Mr. Yeltsin would break off his holiday to fly to the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata for a signing ceremony if agreement was reached on an inter-republican economic union.

### Soviets to keep spy station in Cuba

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union will continue to keep a massive spy station in Cuba to spy on the United States, despite the warning in U.S.-Soviet relations, the Washington Post reported Saturday. The newspaper said the electronic monitoring station at Lourdes, near Havana, would be maintained even though Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said earlier this month that all Soviet-Cuban military ties would be severed. The Lourdes station uses high-tech electronic equipment to monitor naval and military manoeuvres in the United States, and also eavesdrops on military, space and domestic communications, the Post reported.

### Savimbi to return to Luanda after 16 years

LUANDA, Angola (AP) — Angola's war-weary capital is preparing to greet Jonas Savimbi, 16 years after the rebel chief retreated into the bush to lead his U.S.-backed guerrillas against the pro-Soviet government. Officials from Mr. Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, or UNITA, said one million supporters will give their leader a triumphal welcome

when he returns Sunday. Western diplomats in Luanda doubt the welcome will be quite that great. Regardless, Mr. Savimbi's return will mark a new phase in a peace process sealed by the signing of a ceasefire in Lisbon in May and set to culminate in free elections in the fall of 1992.

### 8 killed in Soviet plane crash

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet cargo plane crashed in the Gulf of Finland shortly after takeoff from the Russian city of St. Petersburg Thursday, killing all eight people on board, the Russian Information Agency (RIA) said. RIA, quoting the Interior Ministry, said rescue workers found the wreckage of the aircraft six kilometres from the airport shortly after air traffic controllers lost radio contact. It was not clear why the civilian aircraft crashed. The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said five out of 18 people aboard an AN-16 military aircraft were seriously injured when it made an emergency landing at Kiev's Borispol Airport in the Ukraine during the night. TASS said the aircraft had run short of fuel. It gave no details.

### U.S. arrests Colombian hitman

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. officials raced against time Friday to round up members of a Colombian execution squad after dealing the Medellín drug cartel a heavy blow by arresting its most feared assassin on a New York street corner. But questions remained over the capture of the alleged professional killer, Dandany Munoz-Mosquera, who was wearing a Mickey Mouse T-shirt and apparently had nothing more deadly than a pocket knife on him when captured. The most important question was — what was he doing in New York while scores of world leaders, from his country's foreign minister to U.S. President George Bush, were in the city to attend the U.N. General Assembly?

### Former D.C. mayor gets 6 months

WASHINGTON (R) — Rejecting pleas for leniency, a federal judge decided that flamboyant former Washington Mayor Marion Barry should serve six months in jail for his cocaine-possession conviction. U.S. District Judge Thomas Jackson dismissed arguments that Mr. Barry, once one of the nation's most prominent Democratic black politicians, be spared from going to jail and imposed the same tough sentence he originally handed down a year ago. Mr. Jackson had been ordered by a federal appeals court to re-sentence Mr. Barry and to more fully explain his reasons in imposing punishment.

### Japan's oldest man dies at 108

TOKYO (R) — Japan's oldest man, Gihei Oka, died Saturday at the age of 108, Kyodo News Service said. Mr. Oka died at home in Oyama, northeast of Tokyo. Japan's oldest person is Waka Shirahama, a 113-year-old woman living in Miyazaki on the southern island of Kyushu.

### 7 'dead' Filipino soldiers return

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Seven soldiers who were reported to have been killed with 15 other troops in a Communist ambush turned up alive in their camp a day later, the military said Saturday. The military had reported that 22 soldiers died and six others were wounded in an ambush early Thursday by New People's Army guerrillas in Conner town, Kalanga Apayao province, about 350 kilometres north of Manila. However, an updated report released Saturday said seven of the soldiers listed among the dead arrived the next day at the 45th Infantry Battalion's camp a few kilometres from where the clash took place.

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